



# LTA SAFEGUARDING PLAN 2024-26

## INTRODUCTION & MISSION

The LTA are clear that nothing is more important than safeguarding those who play our sport from harm. We recognise the contribution that sport can make to both physical and mental health, national pride and social development when supported by a commitment to safeguarding young people and adults at risk. The LTA values of Teamwork, Integrity, Passion, Excellence and Inclusion directly align to the Safeguarding Plan and Mission:

### **MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP THE HIGHEST SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS IN SPORT**

In support of the plan, safeguarding is discussed at LTA Executive Team level and is a standing agenda item at each Board meeting. Safeguarding is also a workstream of the Developing Tennis Advisory Group (DTAG) Board sub-committee ensuring close working with tennis volunteers. A member of the LTA Board has specific responsibility for safeguarding. A dedicated expanded safeguarding team are in place to lead and coordinate activity within this area with responsibility to ensure the LTA meets the commitments set out in this plan.

## OBJECTIVES

The focus on the safeguarding plan was to build and improve on the work delivered in the previous (2020-2023) safeguarding strategy. To achieve this, the following objectives were identified:

1. Place young people and adults at risk at the heart of everything we do.
2. Grow safeguarding awareness across the tennis community to support us in our work.
3. Continue to develop high quality educational resources to increase safeguarding knowledge and meet the changing landscape of our sport.
4. Evolve and strengthen safeguarding standards and requirements in all areas of our sport.
5. Drive high standards in investigations and victim care and react proactively to investigative trends.

These objectives will be achieved across four areas of work with key projects highlighted:

### **AWARENESS:**

- Develop and deliver a safeguarding communications plan to increase awareness and widen our reach to new audiences through LTA channels, events and forums.
- Develop and roll out the Young Person's Welfare Ambassador (YPWA) programme creating a product for venues and member organisations to engage young people increasing their safeguarding awareness.
- Embed the Safe to Play campaign in venues, with the tennis workforce and at competitions with a focus on young people and their parents/guardians.
- Work with the new Sport England Welfare Officers to enhance the support available for Venue Officers and County safeguarding officers.

### **EDUCATION:**

- Develop materials and resources to improve the education of children, parents and adults at risk on safeguarding and the signs of abuse. Utilise LTA channels and innovative mediums such as e-learning and videos.
- Develop a safeguarding toolkit for venues and member organisations in order to increase engagement and confidence on a range of safeguarding topics and issues.

- Deliver a training programme to identified performance coaches, players and parents with a particular focus on improving knowledge and developing a positive safeguarding culture.
- Improve monitoring of training effectiveness through evaluation, data and feedback. Integrate training into inclusion focused programmes.

## STANDARDS

- Launch an electronic auditing system to enhance our support to venues and allow colleagues and member organisation representatives to complete venue spot checks.
- Evolve the support visit process to focus on unannounced health checks and intelligence led visits. Complete a review of the process for non-compliant venues in order to ensure consistency and robustness.
- Ensure standards are embedded across Major Events, competitions, padel and other formats of tennis. Expand the officials license scheme and competition audits to further enhance safeguarding standards.
- Design and implement an accreditation system for Venue Welfare Officers and County Safeguarding Officers in order to support training and development opportunities and recognition.

## INVESTIGATION:

- Utilise data from safeguarding cases to inform our education and awareness plans.
- Review and enhance reporting standards, safeguarding policies (2026) and processes to reflect the views of YP and adults at risk and developments in best practice procedures.
- Produce and implement an offender management process with support from the disciplinary team in order to proactively manage and monitor those on suspensions or LTA Judicial panel conditions.
- Recruit additional Safeguarding mentors to support in the management of sanctions which have been imposed by the Judicial Panel. Agree centralised terms of reference for consistency in delivery and cost.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The objectives can only be met by working in partnership with a number of organisations and volunteers across the sport who share responsibility for safeguarding. It is vitally important that we take a coordinated approach to best safeguard those in our sport. We have built a network of safeguarding volunteers across the country who have all inputted into this plan and the LTA works in partnership with Tennis Wales and Tennis Scotland as member organisations that fully endorse, support and have been engaged in the development of the plan. The Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) and Sport England have worked closely with the LTA to form our work over the next three years.

## MONITORING & EVALUATION

We are committed to implementing, monitoring and evaluating this plan so that successive generations of players, parents, coaches, officials, volunteers and delivery partners are fully aware of and maintain these safeguarding standards within our sport.

Implementation plans will be reviewed by the LTA with Sport England and the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit on an annual basis to monitor and evaluate progress against the plan, and where appropriate to make adjustments for the following year.

In the third year consultation with CPSU and other partners will commence in order to review progress against the plan and to ensure the strategic direction for the next period is aligned with the organisational objectives and the landscape at that time to ensure best use of resources and continued improvement in all aspects of safeguarding across the sport.