

APPENDIX 10 (c) Code for Tennis Leaders & Coaches

Tennis Coaches and Leaders play a vital role in children's tennis. Parks Tennis Ireland will ensure that the work of Coaches and Leaders is directed by this safeguarding guidance and best practice whilst also recognising that they are entitled to obtain a healthy sense of achievement and satisfaction through their involvement in children's tennis.

To act as a role model and to promote the safety of participants in Parks Tennis Ireland programmes, the Tennis Leader should create a safe and enjoyable environment for children by:

- Planning and preparing appropriately and being positive during children's activities.
- Making sure all levels of participation should be enjoyable and fun.
- Prioritising skill development and personal satisfaction over structured competition.
- Ensuring that the level of play is appropriate and that realistic challenges are set for all young participants.
- Avoiding favouritism and ensuring that each child receives the attention that is appropriate to their tennis needs.
- Praising and encouraging effort as well as results.
- Showing respect for all involved, both children and adults.

Recognise and ensure the welfare of children by:

- Keeping attendance records.
- Not exposing a child to criticism, hostility, or sarcasm.
- Not swearing at, ridiculing, shouting unnecessarily, or arguing with a child.
- Ensuring there is adequate supervision.
- Being aware of the child's developmental needs at each stage of the programme. This is laid out in Tennis Ireland Long Term Player Development Pathway
- Being aware of children's special medical conditions as highlighted by their parent/guardian on the registration form.
- Involving and updating parents, especially if a problem has arisen.
- Respecting a child's sensitivity.
- Not using physical punishment or force.
- Not using verbal or physical punishments or exclusion for mistakes.

Additional Information:

- Do not allow or engage in bullying behaviour, rough physical activities, or sexually provocative games.
- Do not permit or engage in inappropriate physical contact.
- Do not make sexually suggestive comments about or to a child.
- Do not give advice of a personal or medical nature.
- Keep any information of a personal or medical nature in relation to a child/young person strictly confidential unless the welfare of the child requires otherwise.
- Do not exert undue influence over a participant to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Acknowledge that the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco is incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity and must be discouraged.
- Avoid the use of alcohol when responsible for young people e.g., organised play and events.
- The use of **mobile phones or technology** by a Leader Coach while operating the programme is permitted only in an emergency or if the smooth operation of the programme requires it.
- The use of mobile phones or technology by Assistant Coaches is not permitted.
- **Photography** is not permitted during coaching classes or tournament fixtures except in instances when an official photographer has been designated by Parks Tennis Ireland.

I have read the Parks Tennis Ireland Code of Conduct above and agree to abide by the guidelines as set out in the code.

Signature of the Tennis Coach/Leader _____ Date _____