

Brunswick Table Tennis Club

Child Protection Policy

Child Protection Statement

Brunswick Table Tennis Club is committed to caring for and protecting the welfare of children and young people who participate in our sport.

The purpose of this document is to give clear guidelines to adults in the event of disclosure of abuse to them and appropriate action that should be taken by them. The actions are intended to care for and protect the welfare of the young person while supporting the adult and ensuring a safe and comfortable environment in which the sport can be enjoyed.

It is the responsibility of every adult working with young people to read this document and be fully aware of its contents.

Aims of Club

The aims of the Club are:

- (1) to provide an organised facility for the playing of Table Tennis both socially and competitively.
- (2) to provide for the coaching of players.
- (3) to stimulate youth interest in Table Tennis within the Club's geographical area.

Child Protection Group

Club Child Protection Coordinator: Alasdair Sinclair, Tel: 07739 722 339

Deputy Coordinator: Panos Kanargias, Tel: 07914 312 936

Independent Person: Terry McLernon, Tel 07743 702744 (Mr McLernon is Chairman of the West of Scotland Table Tennis League, as at September 2021).

Guidance for Adults Working with Young Persons

- 1 Treat everyone with respect.
 - 2 Be a positive role model for young people.
 - 3 Plan activities which include more than one adult present.
 - 4 Respect a young person's right to privacy.
 - 5 Be aware that your actions can be misinterpreted.
 - 6 Avoid inappropriate physical or verbal contact with young people.
 - 7 Avoid being drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour such as tantrums or crushes.
 - 8 Do not exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues.
 - 9 Do not show favouritism to any individual.
 - 10 Do not make suggestive remarks or gestures.
 - 11 Do not rely on your good name to protect you.
 - 12 Do not believe it could never happen to you.
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What to do if a young person tells you about abuse by someone else:

- Record the facts
- Tell the Club Child Protection Coordinator (who will inform Table Tennis Scotland)

What to do if you receive an allegation about yourself:

- Immediately tell the Club Child Protection Coordinator (who will advise Table Tennis Scotland)
- Have no further contact with the Club
- Table Tennis Scotland will contact you as soon as possible

What to do if you suspect a young person is being abused:

- Inform the Club Child Protection Coordinator (who will advise Table Tennis Scotland)

Guidance for the Club Child Protection Coordinator

If you are concerned that a young person is suffering physical, sexual or emotional abuse

- through your own observations
- because the young person confides in you
- because someone else expresses concerns to you:

RESPOND by listening with care;
 reassure the young person he/she is not to blame
 taking the allegations seriously - do not show disbelief
 affirm the young person's feelings as he/she expresses them
 do not be judgmental about the information given.

ENQUIRE how an injury was sustained or why he/she is upset. Use only a casual enquiry,
do not pursue by persistent questioning.

CONFIDENTIALITY should not be promised to young persons or adults. Explain that you
may have to share information but will not do so without saying so.

OBSERVE carefully the demeanour of the child or person expressing concern.

RECORD in detail what you have seen and heard on the same day.

DO NOT INTERROGATE - rather encourage the young person to say what he/she wants.

Actions to be taken if abuse is disclosed or alleged:

- take details of the allegation/suspicion/concern
- inform Table Tennis Scotland
- consult with an appropriate Child Protection professional viz
 Social Work Dept or
 Strathclyde Police, "C" Division, Female and Child Unit: 532 3700
- obtain the name of the professional consulted
- follow the advice of the appropriate agency.

Remit of the Club Child Protection Coordinator

- 1 Ensure all persons working with young people in the club are aware of the requirements of the Child Protection policy.
- 2 Process information on new coaches and organisers.
- 3 Advise the club on matters related to Child Protection Policy.
- 4 Arrange appropriate training for relevant persons.
- 5 Act as contact person on all matters relating to Child Protection at the club.
- 6 Ensure that young people and their parents/guardians are aware of club policy.

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Guidance for Parents/Guardians of Young People Attending the Club

- 1 Accompanying this document are:
 - a statement of the Club's Child Protection Policy
 - a copy for your information of the Child Protection Guidelines issued to adults attending the Club
 - a copy of the Club Information and Rules.
- 2 In relation to child safety, please note in particular paragraph 5 of the Information and Rules.
- 3 The adoption of this Policy affects the activities of those Juniors who have previously participated either in the Junior League or in the Club's West of Scotland League teams. As a result of the advice received to avoid situations where an adult is alone with young people, the Club will no longer attempt to arrange for volunteer drivers to transport Juniors to matches or events. Regrettably, future involvement in such activities will be dependent on the junior or his parent/guardian making their own travel arrangements using methods/drivers known and trusted by them.

Brunswick Table Tennis Club Information and Rules

- 1 Brunswick Table Tennis Club exists to provide the opportunity for social and competitive play and to encourage new players into the game.
- 2 Social and practice sessions take place in the Leisuredrome (Bishopbriggs) on a Monday and Thursday evening from 7.30 pm..
- 3 No annual fee is charged to players who attend only the practice sessions and are not involved in the West of Scotland League; League players pay an annual fee of £42 (Seniors) and £21.00 (Juniors and unemployed). Currently (September 2021), all players pay a nightly fee of £4.00 (Seniors) and £2.00 (Juniors) but this is subject to review at each AGM.
- 4 A Junior player is one who is at least twelve and has not reached his/her eighteenth birthday by 31 December preceding the start of season (ie 31 December 2015 for season 2016/2017).
- 5 The Club arranges the availability of space and equipment for play but, as these facilities are not under the Club's management, is not responsible for any loss or injury arising from their use. While every effort is made to ensure that no rowdy or inappropriate behaviour occurs in the playing area, it is not possible for the Committee members present to supervise behaviour (especially Junior) at all times. In particular, the playing area is open for attendees to come and go, whether to changing rooms, toilets, or even outwith the building. The Club is not able to monitor such movements and any parent who is concerned about lack of supervision should arrange to have an adult or other responsible person attend along with their child.
- 6 Attendees are expected to behave in a calm and responsible manner both when playing and waiting to play and to respond to any instructions concerning behaviour from a Committee member. In particular, players should not stand or run into the path of other players or participants in adjoining sports. Nets and tables should be treated with respect.
- 7 No food or drink should be consumed in the playing areas.
- 8 There are no particular requirements as to the type of clothing worn although a lightweight, dark-coloured shirt is recommended. Also, for protection of the floor, trainers or sports shoes with light-coloured soles should be worn. Players attending for the first few times to try the sport can usually be loaned a bat but, thereafter should try to obtain their own bat as soon as possible. (These can be bought from sports shops from a few pounds upwards).
- 9 Committee members frequently in attendance at the Leisuredrome are:

Billy Murphy	Chairman	07973 841082
Liam Luporini	Treasurer	07803 315 044
Ken Reid	Secretary	07548 215441
Alasdair Sinclair		07739 722 339

