



BLT&SRC Safeguarding Whistle Blowing Policy

Safeguarding children and adults at risk requires everyone to be committed to the highest possible standards of openness, integrity and accountability. As a Club, we are committed to encouraging and maintaining a culture where people feel able to raise a genuine safeguarding concern and are confident that it will be taken seriously.

What is whistle blowing?

In the context of safeguarding, “whistle blowing” is when someone raises a concern about the well-being of a child or an adult at risk.

A whistle blower may be:

- a player
- a volunteer
- a coach
- other member of staff
- an official
- a parent
- a member of the public

How to raise a concern about a child or an adult at risk at the club

If a child or an adult at risk is in immediate danger or risk of harm, the police should be contacted by calling 999.

Where a child or an adult at risk is not in immediate danger, any concerns about their well-being should be made without delay to the Club Welfare Officer, Sarah Markwort on 07879 843360/ welfareofficer@bltsrc.co.uk.

The Club Welfare Officer will pass the details of the concern on to either the LTA or England Squash Safeguarding Team at the earliest opportunity and the relevant local authority and the police will be contacted, where appropriate.

If, however, the whistle blower does not feel comfortable raising a concern with the Club Welfare Officer, the whistle blower should contact the respective tennis or squash safeguarding team directly:

- Tennis: LTA Safeguarding Team - 020 8487 7000 / safeguarding@lta.org.uk
- Squash: England Squash Safe Squash Team - 0161 438 4302 / safesquash@englandsquash.com.

If these safeguarding teams are unavailable and you want advice before the next working day, call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or Dacorum Child Social Care Services on 0300 123 4043 if your concern is about a child. If your concern is about an adult contact Dacorum Adult Social Care Services on 0300 123 4042.

Information to include when raising a concern

The whistle blower should provide as much information as possible regarding the incident or circumstance which has given rise to the concern, including:

- their name and contact details (unless they wish to remain anonymous)
- names of individuals involved
- date, time and location of incident/circumstance and
- whether any witnesses were present

What happens next?

All concerns raised by a whistle blower about the well-being of a child or an adult at risk will be taken seriously and every effort will be made to deal with each concern fairly, quickly and proportionately.

If the whistle blower does not believe that the concern has been dealt with appropriately and wishes to speak to someone outside the Club or the respective safeguarding teams, the NSPCC Whistleblowing advice line should be contacted on 0800 028 0285 or by emailing help@nspcc.org.uk or contact Dacorum Child Social Care Services on 0300 123 4043.

Support

The Club will not tolerate any harassment, victimisation or unfair treatment of, and will take appropriate action to protect, whistle blowers when they raise a concern in good faith.