**BLACKHEATH WANDERERS LTC**

**Safeguarding and Welfare Policies**

Blackheath Wanderers Lawn Tennis Club acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and LTA requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children

* have a positive and enjoyable experience of tennis at Blackheath Wanderers Sports Club in a safe and child centered environment
* are protected from abuse whilst participating in tennis and at the club

Blackheath Wanderers Sports Club acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy Blackheath Wanderers Lawn Tennis Club will

* promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
* ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
* ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
* ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
* prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
* ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Blackheath Wanderers Sports Club. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the Club.

**Responsibility for Safeguarding**

The Committee has overall accountability for this policy and its implementation.

We have an appointed Welfare Officer (WO) who holds operational responsibility for safeguarding in line with the LTA role profile and is supported by the Committee. The WO is the first point of contact to raise a safeguarding concern involving a child or adult at risk.

The Welfare Officer is:

Name - Julie Spencer

Contact Number - 07729 861203

Email – juliespencer795@yahoo.com

For further information see the WO Poster on the website and Notice Board

**Monitoring**

The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances:

* changes in legislation and/or government guidance
* as required by the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board, UK Sport Councils and the LTA.
* as a result of any other significant change or event.

(Last reviewed December2023)