DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY SUMMARY

The aim of this policy is to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with respect and ensure noone is denied access to our tennis venue because of a discriminatory reason. An explanation of the different types of discrimination can be found in the [LTA 2021-2023 Inclusion Strategy](https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/Library/mauricitennis?command=Proxy&lang=en&type=Documents&currentFolder=%2F&hash=a998fa4f43a8e546e01668a10c227c2e1fec750c&fileName=lta-inclusion-strategy-2021-23%20PDF.pdf).

A full copy of our policy can be accessed here:

In summary, we will adhere to the following:

a) Take responsibility for setting and upholding standards and values that apply throughout The QCF at every level, so tennis can be enjoyed by everyone who wants to participate.

b) Demonstrate a commitment to eliminating discrimination by reason of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or belief, ability or disability and to encourage equal opportunities and an inclusive welcoming environment.

c) Ensure that any users of our venues are treated fairly and with respect and ensure that all members of the community regardless of their ability have access to and opportunities to take part in, and enjoy its programmes of activities, competitions and events.

d) Oppose all forms of harassment, bullying or abuse towards an individual or group whether it is physical, verbal or online that is based on any of the characteristics listed above or for any other reason. Any incidents of this or a similar nature will be treated seriously and subjected to the appropriate disciplinary process.

e) Ensure there is an immediate investigation of any complaints of discrimination on the above grounds, once they are brought to the attention of the tennis venue.

f) Promote a culture that encourages the learning and development of coaches and volunteers in order to achieve greater diversity and inclusion within tennis.

g) Support, promote and enforce the LTA/Tennis Foundation Fair Play values within all tennis activities and environments.

h) Be committed to and deliver a policy of fair and equitable treatment for all those using our venues and and users of our venues to abide by and adhere to these policies and the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 as well as any amendments to this Act or any new equality legislation.

i) Be committed and take action to create an inclusive environment that is welcoming and seeks to improve representation across all groups and participation at all levels within tennis.

Lodging a Complaint

In the event that any user of the venue feels that he, she or they have suffered discrimination or harassment in any way or that the policies, rules or code of conduct have been broken they should follow the procedures below.

1. The complainant should report the matter in writing to The QCF. The report should include:

a) details of what occurred;

b) details of when and where the occurrence took place;

c) any witness details and copies of any witness statements;

d) names of any others who have been treated in a similar way (provided that those people consent to their names being disclosed);

e) details of any former complaints made about the incident, including the date and to whom such complaint was made; and

f) an indication as to the desired outcome.

2. If the person accused of discriminatory behaviour is a non-employee, The QCF:

2.1 will request that both parties to the complaint submit written evidence regarding the incident(s);

2.2 may decide (at its sole discretion) after reviewing the complaint and supporting evidence to uphold or dismiss the complaint without holding a hearing;

2.3 may (at its sole discretion) hold a hearing (whether or not such a hearing is requested by either party) at which both parties will be entitled to attend and present their case;

2.4 will have the power to impose any one or more of the following sanctions on any person found to be in breach of any policy, (including the Equality Policy):

a) warn as to future conduct;

b) recommend removal from QCF activities;

c) recommend exclusion from the facility, either temporarily or permanently; and

d) recommend to turn down a non-member’s current and/or future membership applications.

e) suspend from any tennis team linked to The QCF

2.5 will provide both parties with written reasons for its decision to uphold or dismiss the complaint within one (1) calendar month of such decision being made.

2.6 Either party may appeal a decision of the management committee to the County Association (including a decision not to hold a hearing) by writing to the [County Secretary] within 3 months of the Place to Play’s decision being notified to that party.

3. If the nature of the complaint is with regard to anyone on The QCF team or another body or group in The QCF, the member/visitor has the right to report the discrimination or harassment directly to the LTA or to another relevant sporting governing body.

We also adopt the [LTA Transgender Inclusion Policy.](https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/Library/mauricitennis?command=Proxy&lang=en&type=Documents&currentFolder=%2F&hash=a998fa4f43a8e546e01668a10c227c2e1fec750c&fileName=lta-transgender-inclusion-policy-PDF_-september-2019.pdf)

The QCF Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Including Code of Conduct and Reporting Procedure

Version 1.1 – December 2022

Concern Reporting Procedure

Anyone who has concerns that they or someone else is being discriminated against or has been a victim of discriminatory language or behaviour should:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Respond** | **Listen carefully to what the person is telling you. Do not interrupt; keep questions to a minimum; do not promise to keep the information secret** | |
| **Refer** | **Is someone in immediate danger?**  **YES**  **Call the police (999)**    **THEN** | **NO**  **Talk to the Safeguarding Officer in confidence. You can also talk to the LTA Safeguarding Team \* (020 8487 7000) as soon as possible [Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm]. If the Safeguarding Team is unavailable and you want advice before the next working day, call the NSPCC (0808 800 5000) or Parent Line Scotland (0800 028 2233) if your concern~~s~~ is about a child.**  **If your concern us about an adult ask them for details of your Local Authority Adult Social Care Services.**    **Hate crime can alternatively be reported through True Vision at** [**www.report-it.org.uk**](http://www.report-it.org.uk/) |
| **Record** | **Write an objective account of your concerns immediately using the Reporting a Concern Form found on the** [**safeguarding page**](https://www.lta.org.uk/about-the-lta/policies-and-rules/safeguarding-protection/)**. Send it to the Safeguarding Team within 48 hours of the concern/disclosure (safeguarding@lta.org.uk)**    **Handling a concern/disclosure can be emotionally difficult. If you would like to talk to someone after making a concern/disclosure, contact the LTA Safeguarding Team by phone 020 8487 7000 or email safeguarding@lta.org.uk** | |

Tennis Wales Safeguarding Lead (029 2046 3335)

Tennis Scotland Safeguarding Lead (0131 444 4154).

(See appendix C for more details on what to do if a disclosure from a child or adult at risk is made to you)

Diversity and Inclusion in Tennis

This Policy sets out our commitment and includes our Safe and Inclusive Standards, Code of Conduct and Reporting Procedure and it supports our overall aims for diversity and inclusion that are to ensure that:

· Tennis is diverse and inclusive

· Diversity and inclusion are embedded in our club’s culture and our behaviours

· We create a culture where inclusive leadership thrives

· We take a proactive approach using positive action to ensure that communities and individuals are valued and able to achieve their full potential.

To achieve these aims The QCF believes that everyone involved in racket sports has a vital role to play in promoting diversity and inclusion and we ask everyone to become Safe and Inclusive Racket Sports Champions – proactively promoting Safe and Inclusive tennis and taking action against all forms of discrimination.

We are proud to have a Diversity and Inclusion Policy that demonstrates our commitment to making tennis diverse and inclusive. The commitment to Diversity and Inclusion is upheld by all - Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), Tennis Scotland, Tennis Wales.

These commitments are fully supported by The QCF

Together we can make a positive difference to people from different backgrounds to participate in all racket sports

Thank you.

Diversity and Inclusion Policy

1. Policy Statement

This Diversity and Inclusion Policy, Standards, Code of Conduct and Reporting Procedure are applicable to The QCF and is based on similar policies of:

· The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)

· Tennis Scotland

· Tennis Wales

As a coaching provider we contribute actively to enable more people to play racket sports more often, in a manner that it is safe, inclusive, and fair. This applies regardless of a person’s age, disability, gender reassignment status, sex, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, race or sexual orientation, socio-economic status or any other background.

We recognise that many concerns and/or disclosures may have both safeguarding and diversity and inclusion elements to them. This policy reflects this through its reporting procedures, which replicate the safeguarding concern reporting procedures.

This Policy strives to minimise risk and support our venue, programmes, events and individuals to deliver and experience a positive tennis experience for everyone. The Reporting Procedures at the top of this document outlines how to respond to safeguarding or discrimination concerns/disclosures.

2. Use of Terminology

We have adopted the following definitions to explain our approach to diversity and inclusion in racket sports:

Discrimination – treating someone in a less favourable way and causing them harm, because of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation

Diversity – acknowledging, celebrating and respecting the differences between groups of people and between individuals. We will work to ensure that people can be assured of an environment in which their rights, dignity and individual worth are respected, and in particular that they are able to enjoy their sport without the threat of intimidation, victimisation, harassment or abuse.

Harassment – unwanted conduct related to a relevant protected characteristic, which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual’s dignity or creating and intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that individual or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment. The focus is on the perception of the complainant not the intent of the perpetrator. Employees can complain of behaviour they find offensive even if it is not directed at them.

Inclusion – ensuring that tennis is equally accessible to any member of the community so they can be fully involved in whatever capacity they choose; and that they are supported to achieve their potential in any capacity e.g. player, employee, volunteer, coach or official. We will work to ensure that people have a genuine and equal opportunity to participate to the full extent of their own ambitions and abilities, that they feel respected and valued and are not singled out, with regard to their age, disability, gender reassignment status, sex, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, race or sexual orientation, socio-economic status or any other background.

Positive action – The QCF is committed to taking positive steps to counteract the effects of physical or cultural barriers – whether real or perceived – that restrict the opportunity for all sections of the community to participate equally and fully. We will ensure that we institute, support or contribute to appropriate measures or initiatives that enable access to tennis and participation in associated activities by people from any group that is under-represented in tennis or has difficulty accessing it and that they can do so with dignity or without being singled out.

(See Appendix A for full glossary of terms)

3. Scope

The QCF has direct safe and inclusive responsibility for:

· Staff, consultants, coaches and officials they employ;

· Volunteers, including board members they recruit;

· Venues they own;

· Events and programmes they run; and

· Ensuring all accreditation requirements are met by accredited coaches, officials and venues.

We recommend and support the development of good diversity and inclusion practice to:

· Accredited coaches, officials and venues;

· Players, parents and carers;

· Volunteers recruited by other organisations;

· Venues hired by or on our behalf

· Club Events.

This Policy is in line with national legislation (see appendix B for details of the relevant legislation) and applicable to our club, specifically to every person and place that we have direct safe and inclusive responsibility for.

4. Responsibility for implementation of the Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Diversity and inclusion is everyone’s responsibility: not responding to discriminatory or unacceptable language and behaviour is not an option.

· The Head of Foundation has overall accountability for this Policy and Reporting Procedure, for being the strategic lead on diversity and inclusion and for ensuring compliance with the relevant legislation (see Appendix for details).

· The Head of Foundation has overall responsibility for implementation of the policy.

· The QCF Executive team and the Safeguarding Officer of the QCF are responsible for updating this Policy and Reporting Procedure in line with legislative and organisational developments; and develop a strategic and proactive approach to diversity and inclusion and respond to discrimination concerns.

· The QCF Safeguarding Officer and The Head of Foundation are responsible for identifying where diversity and inclusion support is required; to implement safe and inclusive procedures; promote diversity and inclusion principles, including the Safeguarding and Reporting Procedure, to all the venues they manage, programmes, events and individuals including players, parents and carers.

· All staff, consultants, coaches, officials and volunteers involved in tennis are responsible for raising diversity and inclusion concerns with the Safeguarding Officer to start with; then the Safe and Inclusive Tennis team if applicable, as outlined in the Reporting Procedure.

· Players, parents and guardians are responsible for upholding the Code of Conduct and Reporting Procedure.

· The QCF is committed to:

formally adopt this policy,

take steps to ensure that our committee, members, participants and volunteers behave in accordance with the policy, including where appropriate taking disciplinary action under our constitution;

ensure that access to membership as well as access to participation is open and inclusive;

publish accurate information about the location and accessibility of our facilities; and

support measures and initiatives that British Tennis may institute or take part in to advance the aims of this policy as part of our commitment to our LTA membership.

Where there is a diversity and inclusion concern/disclosure:

· The individual who is told about, hears, or is made aware of the concern/disclosure is responsible for following the Concern Reporting Procedure above

5. Breaches of the Diversity and Inclusion Policy, Standards, Code of Conduct and Reporting Procedure

Where there are concerns that diversity and inclusion good practice has not been followed, all staff are encouraged to follow The QCF whistleblowing policy; consultants, coaches, officials, volunteers and players are encouraged to:

If someone comes to you with a concern around discrimination, listen to their complaint, reassure them and advise them of the routes listed above (1-3).

Breaches of this Policy and/or failure to comply with the outlined responsibilities may result in the following by the LTA, Tennis Scotland, Tennis Wales:

· Venues – Potential removal of LTA accreditation

· Staff – disciplinary action leading to possible dismissal and legal action.

· Contracted consultants, officials and coaches – termination of current and future roles within all four organisations and possible legal action.

· Recruited volunteers, including board members – termination of current and future roles within all four organisations and possible legal action.

Actions taken by staff, consultants, volunteers, officials, coaches, venues, clubs and/or events outside of the LTA, Tennis Scotland, Tennis Wales that are seen to contradict this Policy may be considered a violation of this Policy.

Where an appeal is lodged in response to a safeguarding decision made by the LTA Safeguarding Team and Safeguarding and Protection Committee and/or Licensing and Registration Committee, an independent appeal body such as Sport Resolutions may be used. Their decision is final.

6. Related policies and guidance

· Safeguarding Policy

· Anti-bullying Policy

· Whistle blowing Policy

· And others as may be identified from time to time

Codes of Conduct

All members of staff and volunteers agree to:

· Prioritise the well-being of all children and adults at risk at all times

· Treat all children and adults at risk fairly and with respect

· Be a positive role model. Act with integrity, even when no one is looking

· Help to create a safe and inclusive environment both on and off court

· Not allow any rough or dangerous behaviour, bullying or the use of bad or inappropriate language

· Report all allegations of abuse or poor practice to the club Welfare Officer

· Not use any sanctions that humiliate or harm a child or adult at risk

· Value and celebrate diversity and make all reasonable efforts to meet individual needs

· Keep clear boundaries between professional and personal life, including on social media

· Have the relevant consent from parents/carers, children and adults before taking or using photos and videos

· Refrain from making physical contact with children or adults unless it is necessary as part of an emergency or congratulatory (e.g. handshake / high five)

· Refrain from smoking and consuming alcohol during club activities or coaching sessions

· Ensure roles and responsibilities are clearly outlined and everyone has the required information and training

· Avoid being alone with a child or adult at risk unless there are exceptional circumstances

· Refrain from transporting children or adults at risk, unless this is required as part of a club activity (e.g. away match) and there is another adult in the vehicle

· Not abuse, neglect, harm or discriminate against anyone; or act in a way that may be interpreted as such

· Not have a relationship with anyone under 18 for whom they are coaching or responsible for

· Not to have a relationship with anyone over 18 whilst continuing to coach or be responsible for them

Appendix A:

Glossary of terms

Age: This refers to a person belonging to a particular age group, which can mean people of the same age (e.g. 32-year old’s) or range of ages (e.g. 18 - 30-year old’s, or people over 50).

Bisexual or Bi: – refers to a person who has an emotional and/or sexual orientation towards more than one gender.

Bullying: can involve any form of physical, emotional, sexual or discriminatory abuse. It can also include cyber-bullying – using social media or mobile phones to perpetrate bullying.

Direct discrimination: treating someone less favourably than another person because of a protected characteristic.

Disability: A person having a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Discrimination: treating someone in a less favourable way and causing them harm, because of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

Discrimination by association: discrimination against someone because they are associated with another person who possesses a protected characteristic.

Discrimination by perception: discrimination against someone because of the belief that someone possesses a protected characteristic.

Diversity: acknowledging and celebrating the differences between groups of people and between individuals.

Equality: treating everyone with fairness and respect and recognising and responding to the needs of individuals. Taking positive actions to address existing disadvantages and barriers affecting how people engage with and participate in tennis.

Ethnicity: the social group a person belongs to, and either identifies with or is identified with by others, as a result of a mix of cultural and other factors including language, diet, religion, ancestry and physical features traditionally associated with race. Ethnicity is essentially self-defined and may change over time.

Gay: refers to a man who has an emotional, romantic and/or sexual orientation towards men. Also, a generic term for lesbian and gay sexuality - some women define themselves as gay rather than lesbian.

Gender identity: this is an individual’s internal self-perception of their own gender. A person may identify as a man, as a woman, as neither man or woman (non-binary) or as androgyne/polygender.

Gender reassignment: The process of changing or transitioning from one gender to another.

Harassment: unwanted conduct related to a relevant protected characteristic, which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual’s dignity or creating and intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that individual or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment. The focus is on the perception of the complainant not the intent of the perpetrator. Employees can complain of behaviour they find offensive even if it is not directed at them.

Hate crime: crime that is targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person’s disability, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation or transgender identity. This can be committed against a person or property.

Homophobia: the fear, unreasonable anger, intolerance or/and hatred toward homosexuality, lesbian gay and bisexual people whether that person is homosexual or not.

Inclusive leadership – leaders who are aware of their own biases and preferences, actively seek out and consider different views and perspectives to inform better decision-making. They see diverse talent as a source of competitive advantage and inspire diverse people to drive organisational and individual performance towards a shared vision.

An Inclusive Leader – is a role model exemplar of inclusive behaviour; listens to and seeks out the views of diverse people and takes account of these views, without bias, in the decisions they make; appreciates that a diverse group of people will generate more creative solutions to problems and encourages this; inspires people through a shared vision of future success and motivates them to deliver it; leverages difference for high performance and provides responsive excellence to customers’, clients’ and service users’ needs; provides positive feedback to boost people’s self-efficacy; puts effort into helping diverse people identify their talents and develop them for performance now and future advancement; communicates authentically and honestly in a way that inspires trust, loyalty and well-being.

Inclusion: recognising that people from different backgrounds may have difference needs and expectations and may experience barriers in trying to access tennis. An inclusive venue is one that takes steps to attract and engage with people from many different backgrounds and meet their needs so that everyone has a positive experience and has the opportunity to achieve their potential.

Indirect discrimination: a practice, policy or rule which applies to everyone in the same way, but that has a worse effect on some people than others.

LGBTQ: an acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Questioning.

Lesbian: a woman who has an emotional romantic and /or sexual orientation towards women.

Monitoring equality: refers to data collection and analysis to check if people with protected characteristics are participating and being treated equally. For example: monitoring of the number of people with a disability who play tennis at our venue.

Non-binary – an umbrella term for a person who does not identify as only male or only female, or who may identify as both.

Positive action: a range of lawful actions that seek to overcome or minimise disadvantages (for example in employment opportunities) that people who share a protected characteristic have experienced, or to meet their different needs.

Pregnancy and maternity: pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

Questioning: it refers to the process of exploring your own sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Race: refers to the protected characteristic of race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

Radicalisation, extremism and terrorist behavior: Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and/or forms of extremism. Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. There is no single way to identify an individual who is likely to be susceptible to extremist ideology. The internet and the use of social media can be a major factor in the radicalisation of people.

Reasonable adjustment: What is considered reasonable will depend on all the circumstances of the case including the size of an organisation and its resources, what is practicable, the effectiveness of what is being proposed and the likely disruption that would be caused by taking the measure in question as well as the availability of financial assistance

Religion or belief: religion has the meaning usually given to it but belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief (e.g. atheism). Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.

Sex: refers to the biological makeup such as primary and secondary sexual characteristics, genes, and hormones. The legal sex is usually assigned at birth and has traditionally been understood as consisting of two mutually exclusive groups, namely men and women.

Sexual orientation: a person’s emotional, romantic and/or sexual attraction to another person.

Trans: an umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth. Trans people may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms, including (but not limited to) transgender, cross dresser, non-binary, genderqueer (GQ).

Transphobia: the fear, unreasonable anger, dislike, intolerance or/and hatred toward trans people, whether that person has undergone gender reassignment or is perceived to have done that.

Transsexual Person: someone who has started the process of changing their gender identity is undergoing or has undergone gender reassignment.

Unconscious bias or implicit bias: this refers to a bias that we are unaware of, and which happens outside of our control. It is a bias that happens automatically and is triggered by our brain making quick judgments and assessments of people and situations, influenced by our background, cultural environment and personal experiences.

Victimisation: when someone is treated badly because they have made or supported a complaint or grievance.

Appendix B:

Legislation

The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It replaced previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act, making the law easier to understand and strengthening protection in some situations. It sets out the different ways in which it’s unlawful to treat someone.

It is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of:

age

being or becoming a transsexual person

being married or in a civil partnership

being pregnant or on maternity leave

disability

race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin

religion, belief or lack of religion/belief

sex

sexual orientation

These are called ‘protected characteristics’.

People are protected from discrimination:

at work

in education

as a consumer

when using public services

when buying or renting property

as a member or guest of a private club or association

People are also protected from discrimination if:

they are associated with someone who has a protected characteristic, e.g. a family member or friend

they have complained about discrimination or supported someone else’s claim

Discrimination can come in one of the following forms:

direct discrimination - treating someone with a protected characteristic less favourably than others.

indirect discrimination - putting rules or arrangements in place that apply to everyone, but that put someone with a protected characteristic at an unfair disadvantage.

harassment - unwanted behaviour linked to a protected characteristic that violates someone’s dignity or creates an offensive environment for them.

victimisation - treating someone unfairly because they’ve complained about discrimination or harassment.

This policy is reviewed every two years (or earlier if there is a change in national legislation).

Reviewed January 2023