

Principal Sponsor

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY - SUMMARY

The purpose of this policy is to provide NBTA staff, volunteers and coaches guidelines by which to identify and respond appropriately to concerns of abuse and neglect, and to understand their role in keeping children safe.

It is the intention and the role of NBTA to ensure that all staff/volunteers/coaches understand their roles and responsibilities in ensuring the safety of children at all times. The onus is on the above to follow up and/or report child abuse, however, the statutory responsibility to investigate allegations of child abuse rests with Child Youth and Family and the Police.

All staff/volunteers/coaches will respond to concerns of child abuse by following the identified procedures, consulting appropriately and collaborating with external agencies and the designated person for child protection.

The first port of call in the case of a child abuse complaint is to the designated person for the protection of that child (in the cases of schools this would be the teacher or principal, club level would be the parent). Confidentiality and safety of the child is paramount, NBTA has the responsibility to know when and how to disclose necessary information and with whom. Records are to be kept in writing. When there is a request for sharing information, the correct process of confirming the identity of the person requesting information needs to be applied, plus followed up with the designated person protecting the child and the NBTA chair.

To ensure a safe working environment, adults should always maintain professional boundaries, with clear instructions so ensuring that their role is not misinterpreted by children.

NBTA has a duty of care to the children it provides services to. A failure to report a significant concern about a child is a breach of that child's human rights. It is **NOT** the responsibility of staff/volunteers/coaches to investigate allegations of child abuse. All staff/volunteers/coaches have a responsibility to maintain appropriate standards of behaviour.

There are various forms of Child abuse outlined further in the full policy as;

Emotional abuse, neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, family violence.

Child abuse will vary in each situation, however for the best outcome adults need to stay calm, listen, reassure the child and document the incident, then follow up with the designated carer, and the NBTA chair.

Full policy as per Nelson Bays Tennis Association Website www.tennisnelsonbays.kiwi