

## Duffield Squash and Tennis Club

### **POLICY FOR THE USE OF CHANGING ROOMS**

Duffield Squash and Tennis Club (DSTC) strives to ensure that all children and vulnerable adults are safeguarded from abuse and harm. However, it remains the parents' and/or carers' responsibility to decide whether it is safe and appropriate to allow their unaccompanied child or children to use DSTC, taking account of their child's general development and maturity, their awareness of the potential risks, and that DSTC is unable to provide supervision of such facilities. We are also mindful that adult members need to change or shower without feeling uncomfortable or vulnerable in any way. DSTC has agreed the following policy for use of our changing rooms which should be read in conjunction with the subsequent Addendum.

1. There are gender specific changing rooms available.
2. The changing rooms are predominantly for the use of adults. Juniors under the age of 18 should, whenever possible, come to DSTC ready changed to play. They should use the toilet on the ground floor near squash courts 1 and 2 so avoiding the need to go into changing rooms.

The only exceptions to this are:

- i) when a parent/carer and child of the same sex are both changing at the same time to play;
- ii) when a parent/carer needs to assist a child to change, but also has a younger child or children to consider, so the parent/carer takes the family group into the changing rooms (but see paragraph 3 below);
- iii) when parents of children playing for senior teams have given their written consent to the relevant captain or team organiser of such team for their child to use the appropriate changing room when in the company of a responsible adult the child's parents nominate in that written consent to act in loco parentis;
- iv) when the Safeguarding Team from time to time allow specific **junior priority** to reflect activities at DSTC, any such permanent determination being set out in an addendum to this Policy.

DSTC is unable to provide any supervision for children using the changing room facilities. All children of primary school age must be accompanied by their parent or carer, and the strong

recommendation is that all older juniors using such facilities are also in the care of their parent or carer, or, by agreement with the parent, a responsible adult nominated by such parent to act in loco parentis.

A “carer” means a person over 18 notified in writing by the parents to DSTC to act in that role as regards a named individual or individuals.

3. Whilst it is sometimes necessary for babies or very young children to be with a parent or carer using the changing rooms, after their sixth birthday no child should be taken into the changing rooms of the opposite gender. The permitted use of the changing rooms by children under this provision envisages such use being for the minimum period of time.
4. Mobile phone cameras or other cameras or other recording devices must not be used in changing rooms.
5. No adult member will place pressure of any kind on a junior member to change at DSTC.
6. The changing rooms are for use for changing and showering only and in no event shall they be used to consume food or drink.

To report any concerns regarding the use of changing facilities at DSTC please contact the Welfare Officer, Alison Knibbs, on 07525 627391 or by email at [welfare@dstc.uk](mailto:welfare@dstc.uk)

This policy will be reviewed every three years or if there is a change in national guidance.

Chairperson : Mark Benson

Date : October 21 2024

Welfare Officer : Alison Knibbs

Date : October 21 2024

## ADDENDUM TO CHANGING ROOM POLICY – Junior priority use

Juniors will have priority use in both changing rooms from 3.40 to 4.00pm on weekdays during school term times (“the priority period”) to accommodate tennis and squash coaching groups and attending parents or carers with younger children. If the changing rooms or either of them are being used by juniors during the priority period, adult members (other than supervising parents or carers) are requested not to use the changing rooms.

To seek compliance with paragraph 3 of the Changing Room Policy which requires that after their sixth birthday, no child should be taken into changing rooms of the opposite gender, and to endeavour safe use of the changing rooms, a DBS-checked and insured coach, agreed by the tennis and squash sections, (“the Monitor”) will be usually, although not always, in attendance during the priority period to monitor the position.

The Monitor will check that, apart from any supervising adults, the appropriate changing room is empty prior to children over the age of 6 entering, while parents/carers of the opposite gender wait outside.

It is stressed that parents and/or carers remain responsible for their child or children’s use of the changing room facilities at all times, whether within or outside the priority period.