

## **To all members – Club by-law**

### **By-law 14 Use of Changing Rooms Policy (As agreed by committee 09/07/2024)**

#### USE OF CHANGING ROOMS AND SHOWERING FACILITIES.

Penzance Tennis Club (the Club) strives to ensure that all children are safeguarded from abuse and have an enjoyable tennis experience.

This document sets out the policy for the acceptable use of our changing rooms, toilets and shower areas by adults and children.

1. We have gender specific changing rooms, including showers and toilets, which are used by tennis players and sometimes by the public. Both adults and children are entitled to the full use of the changing rooms. However, the Club is unable to provide separate changing and showering facilities for children under the age of 18, or to supervise the use of the changing rooms and toilets at all time.
2. Under no circumstances will adult staff, committee members, coaches or volunteers change or shower at the same time as children using the changing rooms. If other adults and children need to use our changing rooms (showering and changing), they will in principle do so at different times.
3. Mobile phones and other electronic devices must not be used under any circumstances in the changing rooms.
4. As the Club cannot supervise the access and use of the changing rooms and toilets at all time, it is parents' and/or carers' responsibility to judge whether it is safe and appropriate to allow their unaccompanied child (9 – 18 years) to use these facilities. This judgement should be based on: (a) their child's general developmental maturity; (b) their child's awareness of the potential risks and vulnerability associated with mixing adults and children when changing and showering, or when using the toilets.
5. Where it is unavoidable that the showers and changing rooms are used by both adults and children at the same time, the Club can unfortunately not always guarantee supervision in the changing rooms. It is therefore recommended that parents or carers of children aged 9 to 18 years supervise their child (of the same sex) whilst using the changing rooms. Children eight years and under should be accompanied at

all times by their parents or carers when using the changing rooms and toilets. When accompanied by their parents or carers, children under the age of eight may also change or use the toilet in the changing room of the opposite gender. Remember however that not everyone (adult or child) will be comfortable using the group changing facilities. No pressure should ever be put on someone using the group facilities and the option to change at home or for an individual to find an alternative provision, should always be made available.

6. In view of the aforementioned, it is recommended that children get changed and showered at home where possible. If your child would prefer to change at the Club in private, the Disabled Toilet in between the male and female changing rooms of the clubhouse could be used for changing individual children, under the supervision of their parent or carer if necessary. Children under eight years using the Disabled Toilet must always be accompanied by their parent or carer. Adults who wish to change at the Club in private, may also use the Disabled Toilet.
7. Any organised groups of children (under 18) for specific youth tennis events (other than the regular group coaching sessions on weekdays between 4pm and 6pm and on Saturday mornings), such as school tennis events, will be given the opportunity for sole use of the changing rooms and the children will be separated by gender. This reduces any risks and potential vulnerability associated with mixing adults and children when changing and showering. The organised groups of children who use the changing facilities should be accompanied by preferably two supervisors of the same sex from their own school, team or organisation. If any of these organised events with children take place, adults will be asked to use the Disabled Toilet facility. The following are considered organised group events: school tennis, youth league fixtures. This clause is however not applicable to tournaments and competitions of individual nature: in that case the other clauses (1 to 6 and 8) of this guideline are applicable.
8. If the Club is made aware that a child or adult who self-identifies as a gender that differs from the sex they were assigned at birth, we will work with them and their parents/carers (where it relates to a child) to make reasonable adjustments to changing arrangements to suit their needs (n.b. for more information on this please go to <https://thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice/topics/lgbt-young-people-and-sport>).

This by-law will be reviewed after a trial period of 3 months and again after two years of the date of adoption by the Penzance Tennis Club Committee.