# British Tennis Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

# Including Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Code of Conduct and Reporting Procedure

**Longton Memorial Tennis Club**



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 club’s Welfare Officer in confidence Allison Moosa on **07814127397** or via email at: **longtontcwelfare@hotmail.com** 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 is 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)

**Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Longton Memorial Tennis Club**

This Policy sets out our commitment and includes our Safe and Inclusive Standards, Code of Conduct (page 8) and Reporting Procedure (page 2) and it supports our overall aims for diversity and inclusion that are to ensure that:

* Tennis is diverse and inclusive
* Equity, 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 we believe that everyone involved in Tennis has a vital role to play in promoting equity, diversity and inclusion and we ask everyone to become Safe and Inclusive Tennis Champions – proactively promoting Safe and Inclusive tennis and taking action against all forms of discrimination.

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

These commitments are fully supported by the **Longton Memorial Tennis Club** Committee, who are individually and collectively responsible for ensuring this policy is followed.

Together we can make a positive difference to people from different backgrounds to participate in Tennis at our club.

Thank you.

**Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy**

1. **Policy Statement**

This Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, Standards, Code of Conduct and Reporting Procedure are applicable to **Longton Memorial Tennis Club** and is based on similar policies of:

* The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)
* Tennis Scotland
* Tennis Wales
* The Tennis Foundation.

As a club we contribute actively to enable more people to play tennis 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, sexual orientation, religion, 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 in page 2 outlines how to respond to safeguarding or discrimination concerns/disclosures.

1. **Use of Terminology**

We have adopted the following definitions to explain our approach to equity, diversity and inclusion in tennis:

**Equity –** is about working to achieveparity of outcome for people with different characteristics or from different backgrounds. It is different from equality. Equality assumes that everyone should be treated the same regardless of needs, experiences and opportunity. Equity is about recognising that not everyone starts from the same place and that sometimes targeted interventions are needed to give people the same chance of achieving a particular outcome, such as playing tennis regularly or becoming a coach.

**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, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status or any other background.

**Positive action** – **Longton Memorial Tennis Club** 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)

1. **Scope**

**Longton Memorial Tennis Club** has direct safe and inclusive responsibility for:

* Staff, consultants, coaches and officials they employ
* Volunteers, including board members and councillors 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.

1. **Responsibility for implementation of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy**

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

* The club’s Committee and Chair have 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 club’s chair **Liz Lemon** and Welfare Officer **Allison Moosa** have overall responsibility for implementation of the policy.
* The Chair and Welfare Officer of the club 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 **Longton Memorial Tennis** Club’s Welfare Officer **Allison Moosa** is responsible for supporting the club to identify where equity, diversity and inclusion support is required; to implement safe and inclusive procedures; promote equity, 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 equity, diversity and inclusion concerns with the club’s Welfare 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 **Longton Memorial Tennis Club** iscommitted 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 an equity, 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](#_Including_Standards,_Code) above
1. **Breaches of the Equity, 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 club’s 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 and/or the Tennis Foundation:

* 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 councillors and 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 and/or the Tennis Foundation 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.

**Code of Conduct**

All volunteers and members 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
* Have the relevant consent from parents/carers, children and adults before taking or using photos and videos including website, WhatsApp and Instagram.
* 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 (clubhouse and courts) and consuming alcohol during club activities, league matches or coaching sessions. Once your match is complete, alcohol is permitted.
* At the seasonal tournaments, alcohol is permitted (not on court) for those 18yrs and over, but you play tennis at your own risk. No one under 18yrs is allowed to drink alcohol anywhere on the tennis club premises.
* If an adult is giving a lift to an U18 and they are not the childs legal guardian, as part of tennis club activities (e.g. matches, presentation nights etc), alcohol must not be consumed.
* It is the responsibility of all members, to ensure they remain within drink/driving limits.
* 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
* To abide by the Rules of the Club at all times
* To look after the Club premises and equipment

All children agree to:

* Be friendly, supportive and welcoming to other children and adults
* Play fairly and honestly
* Respect club staff, volunteers and Officials and accept their decisions
* Behave, respect and listen to your coach
* Take care of your equipment and club property
* Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, culture, religion or sexual identity
* Not use bad, inappropriate or racist language, including on social media
* Not bully, intimidate or harass anyone, including on social media
* Not to smoke, drink alcohol or drugs of any kind on club premises or whilst representing the club at competitions or events
* Talk to the club Welfare Officer about any concerns or worries they have about themselves or others

All parents and carers agree to:

* Positively reinforce your child and show an interest in their tennis
* Use appropriate language at all times
* Be realistic and supportive
* Never ridicule or admonish a child for making a mistake or losing a match
* Treat all children, adults, volunteers, coaches, officials and members of staff with respect
* Behave responsibly at the venue; do not embarrass your child
* Accept the official’s decisions and do not go on court or interfere with matches
* Encourage your child to play by the rules, and teach them that they can only do their best
* Deliver and collect your child punctually from the venue
* Ensure your child has appropriate clothing for the weather conditions
* Ensure that your child understands their code of conduct
* Adhere to your venue’s safeguarding policy, diversity and inclusion policy, rules and regulations
* Provide emergency contact details and any relevant information about your child including medical history

**CONDUCT OF MEMBERS**

The Tennis Club Chairperson and/or the Management Committee, may suspend/ban from the Club any Member whose conduct, whether on the Club premises or elsewhere, is, or has been, in the opinion of the Tennis Club Committee contrary to the interests of the Club, or injurious to its reputation.

The suspended/banned Member can request to meet the Tennis Club Committee at its next Meeting, provided this request is submitted in writing to the Secretary 7 days prior to the date of the meeting, and any allegations against the Member shall be related (in his/her presence if he/she attends) to the meeting by a member of the Tennis Club Committee, and the suspended/banned Member shall (if he/she desires) be allowed, at the discretion of the meeting, and/or the Chairperson or designated deputy, a reasonable adjournment to enable the preparation of an answer. The decision of the Tennis Club Committee at the said meeting or at any adjourned meeting whether to reinstate the suspended/banned Member or to terminate his/her Membership shall be taken by vote and shall be final and conclusive.

 **BYE LAWS**

The Tennis Club Committee may from time to time make, vary and revoke Bye Laws (not inconsistent with this Code of Conduct) for the regulation of the internal affairs of the Club and the conduct of the Members, and the Bye Laws for the time being in force shall be binding on all Members. The content of such Bye Laws shall be posted in the Clubhouse.

This Policy is reviewed every year (or earlier if there is a change in national legislation).

This Policyis recommended for approval by:

Club Committee Chair: Liz Lemon Date: 03 February 2025

Club Welfare Officer: Allison Moosa Date: 03 February 2025

**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, or people over 50).

Age

This refers to a person belonging to a particular age group, which can mean people of the same age (e.g. 32 year olds) or range of ages (e.g. 18 - 30 year olds, 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.Disability

A person has a disability if s/he has a physical or mental impairment which 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**.**

**Equity:** parity of outcome for people with different characteristics or from different backgrounds. It is different from equality. Equality assumes that everyone should be treated the same regardless of needs, experiences and opportunity. Equity is about recognising that not everyone starts from the same place and that sometimes targeted interventions are needed to give people the same chance of achieving a particular outcome, such as playing tennis regularly or becoming a coach.

**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. Equality is about ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents, and believing that no one should have poorer life chances because of where, what or whom they were born, what they believe, or whether they have a disability. Equality recognises that historically, certain groups of people with particular characteristics e.g. race, disability, sex and sexuality, have experienced discrimination.

**Ethnicity**: the social group a person belongs to, and either identifies with or is identified with by others, because 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: t**his 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 behavior, 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 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.Positive action

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

**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. Refers to a range of lawful actions that seek to overcome or minimise disadvantages (e.g. in employment opportunities) that people who share a protected characteristic have experienced, or to meet their different needs.

**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.

Refers to a person who has the protected characteristic of gender reassignment. This may be a woman who has transitioned or is transitioning to be a man, or a man who has transitioned or is transitioning to be a woman. The law does not require a person to undergo a medical procedure to be recognised as a transsexual,

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

**Appendix B:**

**Legislation**

The **Equality Act 2010[[1]](#footnote-1)** 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** – intentionally treating someone with a protected characteristic less favourably than others.

For example: excluding a member from a tournament because of their ethnic background, or denying a job opportunity to a woman because she is pregnant.

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

For example: implementing a rule that all members wishing to compete in national league matches must attend early morning practices could disproportionately disadvantage older members or those with family commitments, as they may find it more challenging to attend at that time.

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

For example: during practices and matches a group of male members frequently make sexist comments, questioning a woman’s abilities due to her gender.

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

However a person is not protected from victimisation if they acted with malice or supported false complaint.

For example: a tennis player at a club observes that players who are less experienced or in lower teams are consistently given less favourable court times.

* **Perceptive Discrimination** is where an individual is discriminated against or harassed based on a perception that they have a characteristic outlined above when they do not, in fact, have that characteristic (other than marriage, civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity).

 For example: a young tennis player at a local club is perceived to be gay even though they do not identify as

 such.

* **Associative discrimination** is where an individual is discriminated against, harassed or potentially victimised because of their association with another individual who has a characteristic outlined above (other than marriage, civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, however, pregnancy or maternity may fall within a sex discrimination claim because of association with a pregnant woman or a woman on maternity leave).

For example: a coach has caring responsibilities at home and the organization assumes that they will not be able to perform other duties, they are then overlooked for promotions, with the justification that ‘outside distractions’ might interfere with their work.

* **Disability discrimination** is direct or indirect discrimination, any unjustified less favourable treatment because of the effects of a disability or impairment, and failure to make reasonable adjustments to alleviate disadvantages caused by a disability or impairment.

For example: a wheelchair tennis player who regularly participates in local tournaments is informed that the courts used for a competition do not have accessible entryways, despite the player requesting reasonable adjustments such as temporary ramps or an alternative court.

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1. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)