

# Care Support Policy

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*The Committee of Cardiff City Community Table Tennis Club have agreed upon the Care Support Policy identified below. We believe that we should work closely with our members to ensure that every club member gets an exceptional sporting experience, therefore your feedback is appreciated regarding the terms of this Policy. Please record feedback in writing and forward it on to the Club Committee.*

## **Aims of the Policy**

- To define what the Cardiff City Community Table Tennis Club considers appropriate levels of support provided through the coaches and volunteers employed/deployed within the club, and at what point specific support is required
- To identify where responsibility lies for the provision of specific support, and how Cardiff City Community Table Tennis Club can support the athletes, personal assistants/care support providers, coaches and volunteers, and other support staff to make sure everyone has access to high quality, meaningful sport opportunity
- To ensure that all individuals within the Club who require specific support in order to engage in the sport, or to access training, competitions, events and matches, are appropriately provided for
- To ensure clear mechanisms of communication regarding care requirements are facilitated through honest and transparent procedures

## **The Policy**

- Cardiff City Community Table Tennis Club provides care in the form of loco parentis<sup>1</sup> to all individuals under the age of 18 whilst they are attending a club session. A 'club session' is defined as the time between the start of the training/participatory opportunity, and the end of that opportunity. It does not include the period within which the individual is travelling to, or from the session.

Coaches, volunteers, leaders and club organisers will not leave individuals unsupervised if they are not collected on time at the end of the session.

- Care beyond the realms of loco parentis or specialist support is NOT the responsibility of the club. Therefore the following needs to be organised by the individual who requires them:

- o Intimate care support (support with changing, going to the toilet, etc)
- o Specific medical support/care
- o Long-term support with transfer of athletes/participants between equipment (unless appropriately trained to do so) <sup>2</sup>

- Cardiff City Community Table Tennis Club does not employ/deploy coaches, volunteers or leaders based on their ability to provide specific support to individuals who might have a unique care plan. It is the responsibility of this individual to ensure that the support they would receive on a day-to-day basis is also available within the Club environment.

- It might be that individual coaches, leaders or volunteers are appropriately trained to provide additional care beyond their duty to provide loco parentis. The Club will support such coaches, leaders and volunteers in discussions with individual athletes/participants to provide additional care on an pre-agreed basis. The Club does not expect those individuals to provide additional care support if they would prefer not to.

### **Other arrangements**

- If specific equipment or resources are required for an individual to appropriately access the sport, then Cardiff City Community Table Tennis Club will attempt to provide these resources. Such equipment primarily relates to specific resources which would be used for the sport and does not relate to equipment which would be used for medical, personal, or social reasons.

- The number of coaches, volunteers and leaders who attend sessions, training, events, tournaments and competitions will be based on the appropriate coach-to-participant ratio (which is based on environment, age, and the sport).
- Cardiff City Community Table Tennis Club will ensure that specific care/support will be provided to all individuals who may require it. It should be noted that sometimes this will be outside of the club's control (e.g. it may be that Cardiff City Community Table Tennis Club has specifically asked for certain facilities to be available during events, and these have not been provided).

*\*1 - Loco parentis refers to the authority delegated by parents to 'responsible others'. For example teachers and coaches are responsible for the health, safety and welfare of all children left within their care once their parents are not present. Literally, it means, "in the place of a parent". The responsible person is expected to apply the same standard of care as would a 'reasonable parent' acting within a range of reasonable responses. The expected standard of care may vary according to the type of activity, age and maturity. However, the coach or teacher must assume certain responsibilities and recognise that both the legal and moral obligations rest upon them in every aspect of the activity. By law, the adult must behave as any "reasonable" parent would. The legal position is clarified by the Children Act 1989, which states that a person who has care of a child may do what is reasonable under all circumstances for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare.*

*\*2 - This does not prevent coaches, leaders or volunteers from supporting an athlete/participant in getting back into their wheelchair if they should come out of it during the session*