

Blackrock Bowling and Tennis Club Limited
Blackrock Tennis Club

Missing child policy

In accordance with the requirements of Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015 we have undertaken an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. The risk is of abuse and not general health and safety risk. This risk assessment considers the potential for harm to come to children whilst they are in the Club's care.

Reason for this policy

It is necessary to have a policy which sets out the procedure for situations where a child is missing.

Policy

If a child under the responsibility of the Club were to go missing, the following actions should be taken

1. Ensure the other young people in your care are looked after appropriately while you organise a search for the missing young person.
2. Inform the young person's parents if they are present at the event, or nominate an appropriate person to telephone them and advise them of the concern. Reassure them that you are doing all you can to locate their child.
3. Divide up all the available responsible adults into areas to be searched. It is best to take a short time to organize the search properly so that all places are searched fully.
4. Search the area in which the child has gone missing, including changing rooms, toilets, public and private areas and the organization's grounds.
5. Request all those searching to report back to you or to a nominated adult at a specific location and time.
6. This nominated person should also be making a note of the events, including a physical description of the young person including approximate height, build, eye colour, hair colour and style as well as the colour, brand and type of clothing he/she was wearing, and where he/she was last seen, as this will be required by the Gardai. If the search is unsuccessful you should then report the concern to An Garda Síochána.
7. The Gardai may recommend further action to be taken before they get involved; you should follow any guidance they provide.
8. If the Gardai decide to act upon the concern, follow their guidance in respect of further actions to take, if any.
9. At any stage of the investigation, if the young person is located, ensure that you inform all adults involved including the parents, searchers and the Gardai if they are already involved.
10. Refer the concern as soon as possible to the Mandated Person and the Tennis Ireland Child Safeguarding Team.

Responsibility

Compliance with this policy is the responsibility of those present when a child goes missing.

Policy adopted by: Board of Directors, BBTC

Policy adopted on: 7th September 2020

Patrick FEARON