



TENNIS CANADA – SAFE SPORT SCREENING AND EDUCATION



As of **June 30th, 2020**, it will become mandatory for everyone that is coaching, instructing, or assisting and that is in a position of authority in all indoor and outdoor clubs in Canada to complete safe sport screening and education.

HOW CAN SAFE SPORT SCREENING AND EDUCATION BE ACHIEVED?

There are three methods of completing safe sport screening and education:

1. **Certification**: these comprehensive courses last several days and offer various levels of certification for instructors, club professionals, and coaches. Certification ensures proven competencies and is highly recommended for any individual involved in teaching tennis or running tennis programming. Certification includes all benefits of Tennis Professionals Association (TPA) membership including liability insurance.
2. **Community Tennis Facilitator Training**: this non-certification five-hour in-person course plus online education/training includes safeguarding education, importance of quality standards to ensure retention and growth, age appropriate equipment, organizing play activities, and communicating effectively with children. This course costs \$69 and includes all benefits of TPA membership except liability insurance.
3. **Safeguarding only**: this online-only option includes safe sport screening and education. This option costs \$30 and offers no specific tennis training, certification, or benefits of TPA membership.

Note: all three methods include the four mandatory components of safe sport screening and education listed below.

For further information and for course registration, please visit the [TPA website](#). Please note that **registration for the Community Tennis Facilitator Training will be available at the end of February** and **registration for the Safeguarding online course will be available at the end of January**.

COMPONENTS OF SAFE SPORT SCREENING AND EDUCATION

The safe sport screening and education process includes the following components:

1. **Education**: online [Respect in Sport Module](#) – must be completed every three years.
The Respect in Sport training is designed to help coaches by providing them with important knowledge and tools to ensure they are better placed to manage sensitive situations in the correct manner and with the utmost respect for the athlete.
2. **Background Check**: police record check through Sterling Backcheck – must be completed every three years
3. **Declaration of Character***: online form – must be completed once a year
4. **Signing of the code of conduct***: online form – must be signed once a year

*May be completed following registration.

WHY IS SAFE SPORT SCREENING AND EDUCATION IMPORTANT?

- **It reduces the liability for Board members and coaches**: Liability can extend to not only the perpetrator of the act, but also to an organization “sufficiently close” to make a claim of vicarious liability appropriate.
- We have an ethical and moral duty to implement safeguarding and protect our athletes.
- We need to work together to protect our athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, volunteers, and many other stakeholders that enjoy our sport every day in indoor and outdoor clubs.
- It is imperative that all persons in positions of authority be held to a high standard of conduct.

More information on the importance of safe sport screening and education can be found on the [Tennis Canada website](#).

