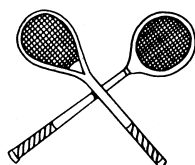

Tennis & Rackets Association



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Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) update: August 2010

VBS is being reviewed

The Government stated the intention to review the Vetting & Barring and criminal records regimes to ensure that they are scaled back to common sense levels.

Background to the Vetting & Barring Scheme (VBS)

The VBS was designed to protect children and vulnerable adults by preventing those who pose a known risk from gaining access to them through their work or volunteering. The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) now maintains a list of those barred from working with children, and another of those barred from working with vulnerable adults.

Impact on Registration

Voluntary registration with the Scheme was due to start on 26 July and was being limited to new employees and job-movers working or volunteering with children or vulnerable adults. However, as a consequence of the Government announcement of the review, the introduction of the Scheme will be stopped.

Scope of the process

The process for remodelling the VBS is work in progress. Details will be announced when they are ready, and you will be provided with this information as soon as it is available.

The CRB in the meantime.

During this process it will be business as usual for the CRB Disclosure service. Although the Scheme has been stopped, changes introduced in October 2009 are still in place. Organisations that are engaging individuals to work in regulated activity with children or vulnerable adults should continue to use their existing safeguarding practices, including the use of enhanced CRB disclosures where these are required by law or regarded as appropriate by employers.

Continued Safeguarding

Whilst the Scheme is being reviewed existing safeguarding regulations remain in force and should be adhered to. The following changes came into effect from 12th October 2009.

- It is now a criminal offence for barred individuals to apply to work with children or vulnerable adults in a wider range of posts than previously. Employers also face criminal sanctions for knowingly employing a barred individual across a wider range of work.
- The previous barring lists have been replaced by two new barred lists administered by the ISA rather than several Government departments. Now, checks of these two lists can be made as part of an Enhanced CRB check.
- Employers, local authorities, professional regulators and inspection bodies are now under a duty to refer to the ISA any information about an individual where they consider them to have caused harm or pose a risk of harm to vulnerable groups, such as why they stopped, or considered stopping, an individual working with vulnerable groups.

Keep up to date

The T&RA Child Protection Officer will undertake to keep Clubs, professionals and Club Child protection Officers up to date with the latest information on the disclosure process.

Further information for Clubs.

Impact on CRB application process

The CRB has recently provided a new (purple) application form and these have been distributed to Clubs together with instructions for their completion.

Changes to the way the new application form is completed.

The following changes to completing the new application form should be noted:

- Section A, Question 28 - '*Do you have an ISA registration number*' will not be a mandatory field and can be omitted.
- Section D - '*apply for registration with ISA*' can be omitted. This section is not to be completed until further notice.
- Section X, Questions 64 and 65 - '*are you entitled to know whether the applicant is registered to work with children / vulnerable adults?*' - continue to answer YES or NO if you require a check of the relevant ISA barred lists.

Please avoid completing those sections of the form that relate to the ISA registration.