

Buckden Tennis Club

Policy for juniors playing Team tennis

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Scope of Policy

This document sets out Buckden Tennis Club's (hereafter referred to as "the Tennis Club's") policy for the procedures to be followed for juniors participating in Team tennis on behalf of the Tennis Club.

For the purposes of this document, juniors are defined as children who are under the age of 18. Supervision is provided by the (match day) captain who has access to the consent form. Supervision is considered to be minimal and include: guidance and encouragement to the junior so that they can feel comfortable playing in adult leagues and stepping in to support the wellbeing of a junior in a challenging situation. It does not mean being accountable for a junior's behaviour or conduct, before, during or after the match.

Team tennis includes playing within any of the Tennis Club's ladies, mens or mixed teams in any of the local leagues, including the Cambridgeshire and Hunts. and Peterborough League.

This document is aimed at safeguarding juniors whilst they are participating in team tennis.

The policy has two parts. The first part applies to instances where there are Juniors participating in Teams or individual league matches where there is at least one Adult (18 years or over) is present. The second part applies to teams or individual league matches where all team members are juniors.

Part 1 - Teams/matches where there is at least one adult present

The following procedures apply to instances where there are juniors participating in teams or individual league matches where at least one adult (18 years or over) is present.

These procedures are based on the following assumptions:

- The frequency of supervision is considered to be less than the threshold¹ and there is a high likelihood that there will be more than one adult present (ie. there is not one adult supervising multiples juniors).
- The overall risk of a safeguarding incident occurring is also considered to be low due to matches taking place in public open spaces with an opposition team also present.
- The main risk is considered to be around transport to/from matches.

If at any time the above assumptions are considered to be no longer valid, for any reason, the below procedure would need to be reviewed and potentially revised.

Buckden Tennis Club does not require the supervising adult to hold a valid DBS check. However, all of the below mitigations are required:

- Parent(s)/guardian(s) of junior must sign the **consent form**.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) of junior must be copied into all communication regarding matches (Whatsapp groups, emails etc.).
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be involved directly in making any travel arrangements. This means that these arrangements are personal arrangements and not the responsibility of the Tennis Club, in line with LTA guidance.

¹ LTA's Regulated Activity flowchart (children), see <https://www.lta.org.uk/4abd14/siteassets/about-lta/file/regulated-activity-flowchart-children.pdf>

- For home matches, if there is only one adult present, the parent/guardian must arrive to pick up their Junior before the end of the match to avoid a situation where the adult is supervising the Junior alone.

Part 2 - Teams/matches where all team members are juniors

The following procedures apply to instances where there are juniors participating in teams or individual league matches where there are no adults (18 years or over) in the team ie. all team members are juniors.

These procedures are based on the following assumptions:

- The team will need supervision before, during and after the match.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) will make their own arrangements for transport to/from the match, and that these private arrangements are not the responsibility of the Tennis Club.

If at any time the above assumptions are considered to be no longer valid, for any reason, the below procedure would need to be reviewed and potentially revised.

Buckden Tennis Club would require the supervising adult to hold a valid DBS check. Buckden Tennis Club would cover the cost of obtaining the DBS check. All of the below mitigations are also required:

- Parent(s)/guardian(s) of junior must sign the **consent form** which will include explicit reference to the fact that the team will be made up of all juniors.
- It is the parent(s)/guardian(s)'s responsibility to decide whether they are happy with the supervisory arrangements put in place, in line with the above, and if not take appropriate action in terms of providing their own supervision for the Junior. This could involve private arrangements with other parent(s)/guardian(s). Any such private arrangements are not the responsibility of the Tennis Club. Buckden Tennis Club welcomes all support by parent(s)/guardian(s) in transporting juniors to/from matches and spectating the match.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) of junior to be copied into all communication regarding matches (Whatsapp groups, emails etc.).
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) to be involved directly in making any travel arrangements. This means that these arrangements are personal arrangements and not the responsibility of the Tennis Club, in line with LTA guidance.

Consent form

The above-mentioned consent form will be held by the Tennis Club's Welfare Officer(s) and shared with the Team Captain, who will distribute to the Match-day Captain if the Team Captain is not intending to be present for a specific match.

The consent form allows the Tennis Club to record a parent(s)/guardian(s) consent to supervisory arrangements in line with this Policy.

Private travel arrangements made with other parents/guardians are not the responsibility of the Tennis Club.

The consent form also records important information such as any medical information and parent/guardian and emergency contact details for use by the Captain or Match-day Captain where relevant.