



GDTennis Allergy Policy

Upon booking a GDTennis course or camp, we ask for a variety of information to look after your children, including any allergy or medical information we need to be aware of.

This medical information is shared with our coaches, via our online registers so that they are fully aware of each child's individual needs.

Our staff take all medical information very seriously, including allergies. We always have a trained first aider on site, and their training includes EpiPen training.

We encourage parents to discuss any allergies or medical conditions at camp sign in with our head coaches to ensure that an allergy action plan is in place, and that everyone understands the needs of the children, particularly if an EpiPen is required.

At our camps, where children bring their own lunch and snacks, we don't operate a policy of requesting parents to avoid bringing particular foods to camp, and this included nuts. We realise that this may be different from other camps and school policies, however there are many very good reasons that we do not operate a nut-free policy.

The primary reason is that the most recent advice from the Department for Education, the professional medical community and Allergy UK is that this is counterproductive and is not recommended.

See below extract from Allergy UK's guidance:

Many parents and schools try to implement a 'ban' certain foods (such as nuts) from school premises. However, we do not recommend a 'no nut policy', as it is not possible to guarantee and enforce a nut free zone, as staff cannot monitor all lunches and snacks brought in from home. A free from environment creates a false sense of security and does not safely prepare children for environments where nuts may be present. School would need to consider other children with different food allergies and it is not practical to restrict them all. Therefore, school's should have procedures in place to minimise risk of reaction via cross contamination.

So, what is the answer?

As a parent of a child with a severe allergy, we ask you to:

- Teach your child not to share food with others
- Teach them to wash their hands before eating
- Ensure you have discussed all details of your child's allergy and potential required treatment in case of an anaphylactic reaction with the head coach and GDTennis Office.

In return, our coaches remind all children of the importance of these two things and train our staff how to handle allergies.