

# RECOMMENDED COACH / PLAYER RATIOS

There are many considerations when setting coach / player ratios. Ultimately the responsibility lies with coaches and their tennis venues. When setting ratios, the coach and venue must ensure;

- On court activity is safe
- On court activity is delivered with quality
- On court activity represents good value for money
- Supervision of children will not be compromised in the event of an emergency (or other situation) that requires the coach to leave the court/club
- Supervision of children will not be compromised in the event of an emergency (or other situation) that requires the child to leave the session/court

In situations where a child has to leave a coaching session, for example, to use the toilet, they should continue to be supervised. Coaches and venues should plan for such situations in their risk assessment and we recommend that you create guidance/policy on how to manage child supervision whilst responsible for them. This will ensure that all coaches (and any other staff and volunteers) are aware of their responsibilities, and do not allow children to go to the toilet or leave a session on their own.

Coaches, staff and volunteers should not go into the toilet with children.

Coach / player ratios will vary depending on the following factors;

- The age of players
- The facilities available
- The activity taking place (e.g. summer camp v. performance squad)
- The level & experience of coach

It is not possible to give definitive guidance on coach / player ratios due to the considerations above.

However, as a useful starting point the table below provides general guidance on coach / player ratios for recreational coaching delivered at optimum quality.

When working alone, as a minimum all coaches should be LTA Level 2 qualified and in possession of a valid DBS check.

ACTIVITY	RECOMMENDED MAX RATIO (Coach : Player)	SPACE	CONSIDERATIONS
TOTS (3-4 years)	1:12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexible – not necessarily on tennis courts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assumption parents are providing on court support. 1:4 with no parental support</li> </ul>
U10 Coaching	1:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant size tennis court/space for stage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group size can increase using assistants</li> </ul>
11-17 Coaching	1:12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-6 players per court is optimal</li> <li>• Some sessions can exceed this (e.g. cardio tennis)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group size can increase using assistants</li> </ul>
Adult Coaching	1:12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-6 players per court is optimal</li> <li>• Some sessions can exceed this (e.g. cardio tennis)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group size can increase using assistants</li> </ul>
Taster & Intro Sessions / Schools / Camps / Open Days	1:16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexible – not necessarily on tennis courts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group size can increase using assistants</li> </ul>