

# Unsupervised Children

## Safeguarding and Child Protection: Everyones Responsibility

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all children and young people (Children Act 2004).

The LTA maintain the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport as set by the NSPCC which adhere to current legislation (The Children Act 1989 and 2004) and *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (HM Government 2010).

Sport plays a vital role in the growth and development of children and young people, providing opportunities for children to take part in exciting, challenging and healthy activities. All organisations that work with children and young people have a shared responsibility to ensure every child and young person is safe from harm and has an enjoyable tennis experience.

### What age can I leave my child unsupervised at a club?

- In line with guidance from the NSPCC, all children under 13 must be supervised by their parent, carer or guardian. This is due to concerns that they may not be mature enough to deal with an emergency or certain situations.
- Children over 13 need parental consent to be unsupervised. It is a parent's responsibility to teach their child how to respond to emergencies that may arise so they feel confident about their child being unsupervised.
- For all children over 13, please consider a club induction with their parents to communicate the health and safety operations of the Club, along with who to contact in an emergency.

### Can children under 13 be left unsupervised at a Clubmark Club?

- No. Whilst Clubmark clubs have Child Protection Policies in place, along with a designated Child Protection Officers, this is to support in safeguarding whilst children and young people are present, or respond to any issues that may occur, not to take on parental responsibilities.
- Legally, a Clubmark club is not a designated child care arrangement and therefore children under 13 cannot be left unattended.

### All the club members know my child and can supervise my child when I am not there.

- You may know all club members well, however a specific arrangement needs to be made by you and a specific adult member of the club to supervise your child at all times and your child needs to be aware of the arrangement. Simply being on club premises with lots of adults is not acceptable.

### Safeguarding Team

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