

Shankill Tennis Club – Child Protection Policy

Adult Supervision of Childrens' Activities

Shankill Tennis Club encourages all members to make full use of its facilities as often as possible. The club sets out in this document the details of adequate adult supervision of junior members at the club.

Good practice dictates that more than one adult is present to supervise activities attended by juniors. This will help to ensure the safety of the children as well as protect adults. Where possible, all club-organized activities will be supervised by one male and one female adult.

Adult supervisors will ensure that they are not left alone with young participants. If an adult needs to talk separately to a child this will be done in an open environment, in view of others.

Adult supervisors should not be left alone with young people at the end of any activity. Start and finish times for coaching, training and/or other activities will be clearly stated. Parents are requested to collect their children as punctually as possible. If late collections occur supervisors should remain in pairs until all participants have left. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to make arrangements for the timely collection of young people in their charge.

If a parent is unavoidably delayed they should contact the club on 01 – 2825400. In the event that no contact is made with the club the supervisor will attempt to contact the parent using the contact number(s) in the office. If there is no answer they will ask the child if there is another family member whom they can contact. If no contact can still be made the supervisor plus another adult will wait with the child at the club or venue until the child has been collected by a parent or other adult nominated by the parent.

Children attending for club-organised coaching should let one of the adult supervisors know when they have arrived at the club – it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that children do this. When they are finished their coaching session and are leaving with the adult nominated to collect them they (or the adult) should inform the supervisor that they are leaving. Under no circumstances should a child leave the club premises without informing the adult supervisor.

At present, parents supervise the group coaching of children under 10 but the current regulations require all children (under 18) to be supervised. As parents have the primary responsibility for children in sport, the club requests that **parents themselves organise** the supervision of group coaching sessions at the club. A rota system is the most common method used but some parents may wish to be present for all sessions. As both our coaches are male, we ask that where possible, supervision is provided by an adult female.

Parents should note that adequate adult supervision as described above is required only at the following times:-

- During your child's allocated coaching period as part of the club's Junior Coaching Programme. (supervision organized by parents)
- During any of the internal junior activities organized and run by the Junior Committee of the club. (supervision organized by junior committee)
- During any of the closed club tournaments run by the Junior Committee of the club. (supervision organized by the junior committee)