

Essex Tennis Unsupervised Child Policy for Junior County Training & County Events

Essex Tennis is committed to prioritising the wellbeing of children, always promoting safeguarding at any venue or event.

The Essex Tennis Safeguarding Policy (<https://www.essextennis.com/policies-and-procedures>) strives to minimise risk, deliver a positive tennis experience for everyone, and respond appropriately to all safeguarding concerns/disclosures.

This policy relates to children being unsupervised whilst attending Essex Tennis Junior County Training Sessions or County Events

The following apply:

- Any child, under the age of 18 years old, remains the sole responsibility of their parent/guardian at all times – whether they are accompanied or not.
- It is a decision for the parents/guardians as to whether their child is of an appropriate age to be left unsupervised.
- Essex Tennis or the Event organisers¹ have the right to insist on a child being supervised.
- The Event organisers are not able to supervise children when they are at the event.
- If anyone has concerns regarding the wellbeing of any child at an event, these to be initially referred to the Event Safeguarding².
- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to remain on Site³ during the training session or the event.
- When a child attends a County Training session, and is to be left unsupervised, the Coach taking the session will assume responsibility for the child whilst the child is on court for the duration of the session.
- When a child attends a County Training session, and is to be left unsupervised, parents/guardians must advise the coach accordingly and have agreed appropriate arrangements with the coach to ensure the safety of the child when the session is completed.
- When a child attends a County Training session and is to be left unsupervised, parents/guardians must make the child aware of any alternative collection arrangements in the event they are delayed. They must also notify the coach of the delay and advise them of the alternative arrangements.
- When a child attends any County Events including those requiring overnight accommodation, the “Emergency Contact Form” must be signed, however the child still remains the sole responsibility of the parents/guardians, In the event the parents/guardians are unable to attend the event, they must confirm the individual(s) assuming loco parentis responsibility for the duration of the event.

Essex Tennis would like to draw the following situations to parents/guardian’s attention.

- If a child has been left unsupervised, the child must have their full contact detail in the event they need to be contacted.
- Other areas of a Site³ may pose different risks and unless otherwise agreed players attending an event are not permitted to use any other recreational facilities.
- Children’s personal property may not be covered by insurance policies available

¹ Event organisers this will include anyone connected in the running of the event.

² The priority for notification of a concern is initially the Venue Welfare office, and if they are not available one of the Essex Tennis Welfare Officers then LTA Welfare officer if necessary. If the incident places the child in imminent danger the matter should be immediately referred to the police.

³ Site is deemed to be the location where Training or Event take place and where there might be other recreational facilities.