

Guidance: Unsupervised Children

What age can children be left unsupervised at a club?

- The NSPCC recommends that 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.
- It is a parent's decision as to what age they allow their child to attend tennis venues unsupervised.
- It is a parent's responsibility to teach their child how to respond to emergencies or situations that may arise outside the house, so they feel confident when their child is not under their supervision.

Can a tennis venue make a decision about what age children can be unsupervised at their venue?

- Yes. Whilst the NSPCC has guidance, this relates to domestic situations, therefore each tennis venue will need to make a decision about what age children can be without parental supervision. It is important to communicate any decision about what age children can be left at a tennis venue unsupervised, to all members; including young people.
- Whilst Clubmark clubs have child protection policies in place, along with a designated Welfare Officer (formerly known as 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.

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 specific arrangements still need to be made by you and another adult to supervise your child and your child needs to be aware of the arrangement. Simply being on club premises with lots of adults is not acceptable.

Safeguarding Team Contact Details

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You may find it useful to refresh your knowledge of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Safeguarding Adults Policy (as required) and guidance. This can be found at www.lta.org.uk/safeguarding.