

ROCKET PADEL: SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN POLICY

Children Playing at Rocket Padel

- Children under the age of 13 years old are not allowed to attend Rocket Padel unsupervised.
- Any child under the age of 16 years but over the age of 13 years remains the responsibility of the parent, carer or guardian.
- Children under the age of 13 years old may be left unattended by their parent if the child is being coached by one of Rocket Padel's designated coaching team who are an LTA Accredited coach.
- 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.

Changing/showering

- There are no circumstances where a child should use the shower.
- If a child needs to get changed this should only be done under the supervision of the parent/carers. The child will only be in the care of the coach after they have changed and attend a coaching session.

Toilets

- Children under 9 attending coaching sessions will be walked to the toilets by the coach to check no adults are using the toilets, and then return to the courts.
- Children aged 9+ will be allowed to leave the court to use the toilet unaccompanied.

Can a padel venue decide about what age children can be unsupervised at their venue?

- Yes. Whilst the NSPCC has guidance, each tennis/padel venue makes its own 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/padel venue unsupervised, to all members, including young people.
- Whilst LTA registered venues have safeguarding policies in place, along with a designated Welfare Officer, 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 Rocket Padel members know my child and can supervise my child when I am not there?

- You may know some Rocket Padel members well, however specific arrangements still need to be made by you and another adult to supervise your child. Your child needs to be aware of the arrangement. Simply being on Rocket Padel's premises with lots of adults is not acceptable.
- Please ensure that junior members are familiar with Rocket Padel's playing and court usage codes of conduct.

Whilst Rocket Padel fully accepts NSPCC guidance which relates to domestic situations, the organisation has agreed that children under 13 must be always supervised by a parent or other 'responsible adult' apart from coaching sessions, where the coach assumes responsibility.

Rocket Padel Bristol's Welfare Officer is: Ian Alexander 07801 910829

Safeguarding Plan for Junior Match Play

Supervision of Children

The number of adults required to supervise children is;

- 1:10 for children 10 years and under
- 1:12 for children 11 years and over
- 1:16 for children on camps, open days, schools

(This may be different for children with special needs and supported by a risk assessment)

It is recommended by Rocket Padel UK that children under the age of 13 years are supervised by their parent/carer whilst at Rocket Padel and outside of any venue sessions, such as coaching lessons or padel camps and attending matches.

Transportation of Children

If possible, coaches or volunteers **should not** be responsible for transporting children to and from the venue unless as part of a Rocket Padel organised trip (see below).

Parents may choose to make private arrangements with another adult (such as a family friend or other parent) to transport their child, however, they should let the team manager/head coach know in advance.

In situations where Rocket Padel is arranging transport for children (for example to an away match) they must ensure:

- Parents are informed of the destination, reason for journey and who the driver will be.
- *Parents must return to the team manager/head coach a completed 'Consent and Emergency Contact' form and the driver should have a copy of this with them on the journey in case of emergencies.
- **There are two adults in the car. If children are a mixture of female and male, where possible the two adults should also be male and female.
- Children are always seated in the back of the vehicle.

- There is an established procedure in the event of a breakdown/emergency.
 - Driver to contact team manager
 - Team manager to contact children’s parents/carers
 - Team manager to contact host venue
- The driver has a valid UK driving licence, satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, correct insurance, MOT certificate and complies with the laws on the use of seatbelts.
- If transporting in a mini-bus or bus the driver must also have the correct type of licence.
- If a taxi company is hired, then the above checks need to be made.

*** Please do ensure that the team manager and driver has acknowledged receipt of the completed Emergency Contact form before 9pm the night before the match, at the latest.**

**** The tennis padel committee recognise that it is not always practical to follow the LTA guidance when arranging transportation to and from away matches, in terms of having two parents accompany the team to each match. Therefore, team captains are requested to identify those parents that will be volunteering to transport the team to matches so that the necessary checks can be made by the club Welfare and Inclusion Officer.**

In the event of parents already having undertaken DBS checks due to other previously held positions or volunteering roles, it will be at the discretion of the Welfare and Inclusion Office to ask that an LTA check is also undertaken. (This may in part be due to the date upon which the previous DBS check was undertaken).

Code of Conduct for players

Players should take pride in their appearance and act in a professional manner when representing Rocket Padel, both on and off the court.

Captains/ Team managers should remind all players to be on their best behaviour when away, to lead by example and play by the LTA competition rules at all times.

Code of Conduct for adult coaches/volunteers/parents

All coaches/volunteers/parents should be made aware of Rocket Padel’s safeguarding policies and procedures.

All coaches/volunteers/parents are expected to always abide by the LTA and Rocket Padel’s code of conduct.



Rocket Padel UK: Carl Heimdal

Head of Safeguarding, Rocket Padel UK: Kathy Howard 

Date: 06.09.24