



DORSET TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL



TRANSPORT GUIDELINES - LOCAL

The first part of this document relates to transporting young players to local matches and events:

- Ensure drivers are qualified.
- Check correct insurance cover is in place.
- Make sure the vehicle has MOT, Road Tax etc.
- Minimise the time spent with just one child in the car by arranging drop-offs carefully.
- If possible 2 adults should travel but if this is not possible then make sure the young people travel in the back of the vehicle.
- Obtain parental consent – preferably using the consent form which accompanies these guidelines. It is appropriate for one signed form to cover a whole season.
- If a club provides a vehicle and a regular (i.e. every week) driver, that person would require a DBS check. This is not necessary if the service is irregular and/or less frequent. In case of uncertainty advice should be sought from Table Tennis England's Safeguarding Manager on 07507860034.
- If parents arrange and share transport duties no DBS check would be required.

Late collection

Issues around late collection can create many problems for club officials and it is important that clubs adopt guidelines and communicate them to all parents/carers. Clubs should not be responsible for transporting young people in the event of late collection other than in the case of an emergency.

Club officials:

- Make sure parent/carer contact details are available
- Ensure that 2 club officials stay with the individual if possible
- If an official is left alone then stay in an open place
- Do not take the individual to your own home or to any other location
- Do not send the individual home with anyone else unless you have parental consent

Whilst we all accept that sometimes emergency situations arise, all parents and carers should be made aware of the problems their late arrival can cause the club.

SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES FOR TRAVELLING TO CAMPS AND COMPETITIONS AT HOME AND ABROAD

1. Introduction

This section relates to the less frequent occasions when long journeys are involved and possibly overnight accommodation also. Advice is more detailed and is designed to protect young people as well as avoiding the possibility of supervising adults finding themselves in risky or potentially compromising situations.

Table Tennis England operate an extensive competition programme within England in addition to organising training camps and travel abroad for the elite players, and want these

experiences to be exciting and enjoyable for the participants. In addition many clubs and leagues also arrange trips so it is hoped that these guidelines will not only assist those with responsibility for organising and implementing trips for groups of players, but also provide a resource for inclusion in parents/carers information packs.

When in charge of groups of children/young people, coaches and/or responsible adults should be aware **AT ALL TIMES** that they are legally and morally responsible for the young people's welfare and behaviour.

Table Tennis England recommend that these guidelines should be followed at all times, however, where it is not possible to follow the guidelines exactly then all coaches and volunteers should use a common sense approach but **ALWAYS ENSURING THAT THE WELFARE OF THE CHILD IS PARAMOUNT** and should never take any actions that could prejudice this statement.

2. Travelling to Competitions and Camps

Information for Organisers to put in place prior to departure:

- A programme to be drawn up for each trip and made available to all players and their parents/carers to include all departure and approximate return times.
- Ensure that the appropriate insurance is in place e.g. Public and Civil Liability and check if any additional cover is required if foreign travel is involved e.g. medical.
- Circulate consent forms to all parents/carers for completion, collect and hold them in a secure place making sure that emergency contact numbers and medical information for all players is issued to the coaches and any responsible adults.
- Both players and their parents/carers should have an itinerary for the trip with details of a point of contact who is not travelling with the group.
- Players should be made aware of arrangements for them to contact their parents/carers whilst they are away from home.
- Parents/carers are to be informed of their responsibility for transporting their children to and from departure/arrival points for all trips.
- For groups including children under the age of 11 the ratio of adults to children should be a minimum of 1:8, and for over the age of 11 the ratio should be a minimum of 1:10, with 2 adults at all times for groups in excess of 4.
- **Mixed gender groups of any size should always be accompanied by at least one male and one female adult.** In the event of this not being achievable and an overnight stay is involved, then please contact Table Tennis England's Safeguarding Manager on 07507860034 to discuss and agree a practicable way forward.
- Should a situation arise where a coach is travelling alone with a group of children, he or she must be aware at all times of their own fallibility in case of sickness or illness, and take steps never to compromise the safety of the group members.
- Ensure that anyone transporting children in their own vehicle has a valid driving licence, MOT, road tax, vehicle insurance, breakdown cover and that the vehicle is fitted with seat belts. The vehicle should be apparently roadworthy. It is better if the driver is not responsible for squad supervision whilst driving.
- If minibuses or cars are hired for transporting then the same checks as in the previous item should be carried out as far as possible.
- Check if vaccinations or pre-trip medication are needed.
- Check if visas are necessary.
- Check the culture and climate of the country being visited to ensure that the squad take the appropriate clothing.

- Check the country's culture being visited if participating in any activities e.g some countries do not allow teenage girls to attend mixed swimming sessions.
- Check that the dietary needs for the squad can be met including both medical and cultural.
- All beds should be single where possible.
- Toilet and bathroom facilities, if possible, should be en-suite.
- Adults travelling with the group must not share a room with the players under any circumstances unless they are their own children.
- Males and females must not share rooms.
- All coaches and responsible adults, who may include parents/carers, must have attended a safeguarding workshop and have a current DBS check.
- If any of the players are on short or long term medication they must be made aware of their responsibility for administering it themselves, given the agreement of their parents.
- Players, Parents and Coaches should be made aware of Table Tennis England's Codes of conduct, given a copy and the players should sign to agree to abide by the Code and the consequences for breaking any of the rules.

Once travelling and throughout the stay the following should apply:

- Always be publicly open when working with children.
- Avoid situations where an adult is working with a child unobserved.
- If any form of physical contact is absolutely necessary it should be used openly and an explanation given to the child as to what you are doing and why the physical contact is necessary. If possible avoid all physical contact.
- When supervising groups of children in changing rooms, where possible, work in pairs, and never supervise children of the opposite gender to yourself.
- Do not spend time in any of the players' rooms alone unless in an emergency when the door should always be left open.
- Adults should never invite individual players to their room when travelling away.
- Avoid taking children alone on car journeys where possible and ensure that seat belts are worn at all times.
- Make sure that the lead adult has the player information and medical forms with them at all times.
- Remember all adults are role models so always avoid inappropriate use of alcohol and tobacco, and never condone the use of any type of enhancing drugs in the company of children.
- Responsible adults and/or coaches should not drink alcohol whilst in charge of a group of children.
- If any injuries occur keep a detailed written record of the incident along with any treatment given.
- No relationship of an intimate nature will be allowed between players, or players and coaches, whilst travelling together.

3. Accommodation

Check that:

- There is a current fire certificate.
- Parking is secure.
- Toilet and bathroom facilities are clean and safe.
- Where rooms are equipped with satellite TV, some of the programmes may be inappropriate for children. It should be possible to ensure that these programmes are disconnected.
- All players know where and how to find the supervisory adult at all times.

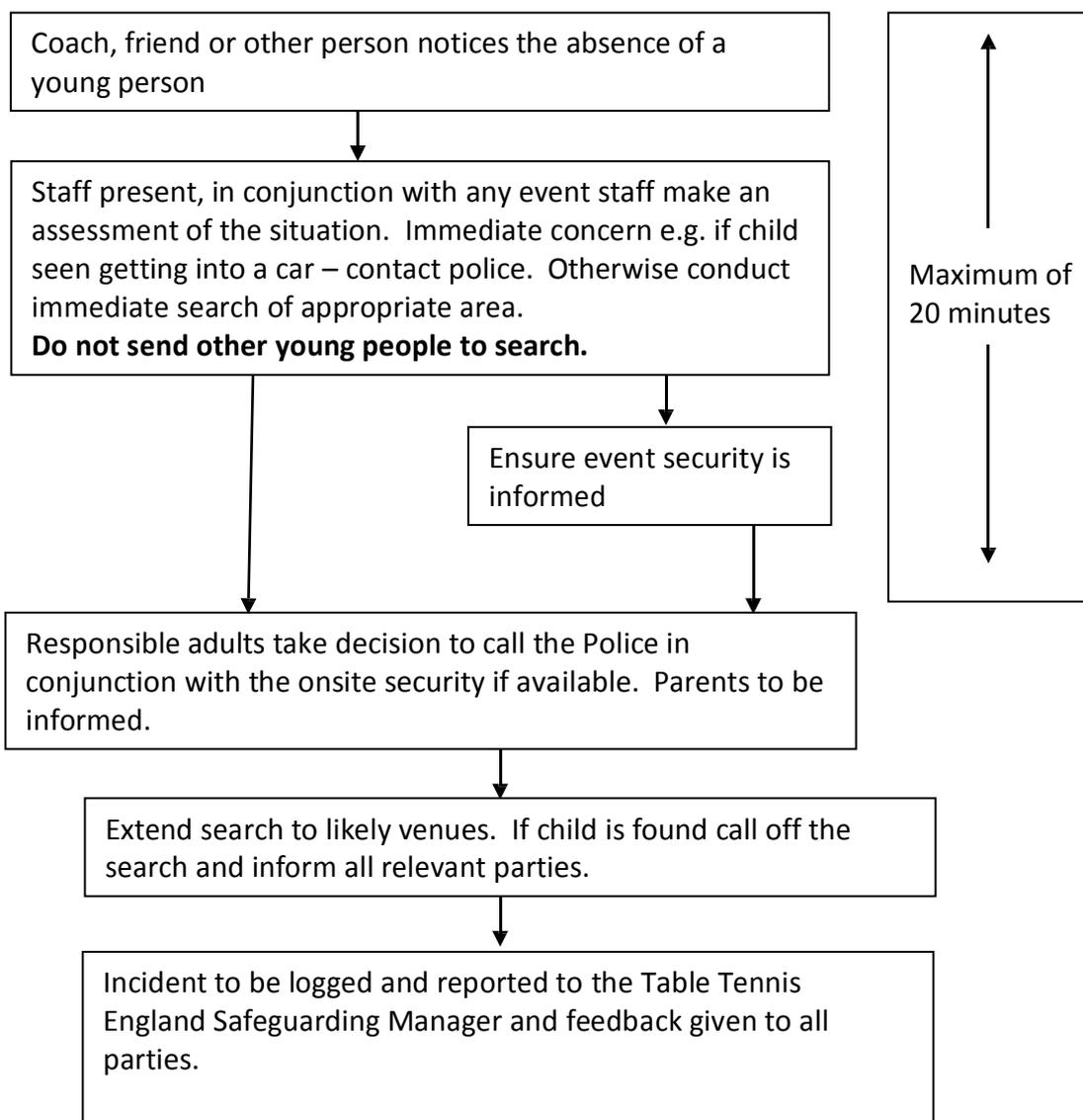
- The person in charge has a list of all the room numbers and their occupants.
- All players' rooms are alcohol free.
- The accommodation has night time security arrangements.
- Fire and evacuation procedures are in place for the whole trip and ensure that all participants are also made aware of the arrangements.
- There is safe storage for all money and valuables.
- The adults know where the players are at all times.
- Regular group meetings are held.
- A full and up to date first aid box is available.
- All medication is handed to and held by the adult in charge, accompanied by a written parental consent for the player to administer it themselves.
- Should a situation arise e.g. if one adult has to stay with a sick or injured player, where an adult is travelling alone with a group of players they are aware at all times of their own fallibility in case of accident or illness, and take steps never to compromise the safety of the group members.
- The safety of the group in an emergency situation e.g. if one of the adults is taken ill unexpectedly, is provided for at all times.
- Any serious accidents or problems must be reported to Table Tennis England, club, league, county or region, whichever is appropriate. Lesser incidents should be reported on return.
- All passports and tickets are safely stored.
- Clear instructions are given as to expectations from the players at all times.

4. Missing Children

The following should be implemented if a child goes missing whilst you are at an event or training camp:

- Ensure that all other children continue to be supervised appropriately while a search for the missing child is carried out.
- Organise the remaining available responsible adults to conduct a search of the surrounding area allocating each individual to a specific area. Report back within an agreed short period of time – dependent on the size of the area being searched.
- If the child cannot be found after the search of the immediate surroundings make a note of the circumstances in which the child has gone missing and where they were last seen and prepare a detailed description of the child along with a photograph.
- No later than 20 minutes after the initial missing person report if the child is still missing then the lead adult reports the matter to the police.
- Parents should be advised and reassured that everything is being done to locate the child.
- Follow police guidance and maintain close contact with them.
- Report the matter to the Safeguarding Manager.
- Ensure that you advise all adults including the parents and police if at any stage if the child is found.

Missing Child Process Flowchart:



For any further information or if you have any queries please contact:

Judy Rogers
Table Tennis England
Safeguarding and Ethics Manager

Mobile: 07507860034
Email: judy.rogers@tabletennisengland.co.uk