

TTW JUNIOR AGE PLAYERS IN COMPETITIONS

Table Tennis Wales are committed to ensure that guidance on ensuring the players' safety, personal development needs and overall table tennis experience are considered and available to all.

For all tournaments that Table Tennis Wales organise, or that are sanctioned by them, as part of the national ranking competition schedule, the following is required to minimise risk and provide structured response should a concern be raised:

1. The name of the individual nominated as Designated Safeguarding Officer for the tournament, to be clearly displayed within the playing hall. They will be responsible for ensuring any safeguarding issue is dealt with in line with Table Tennis Wales Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.
2. Any person wishing to use photographic equipment of any kind, must complete a photographic consent form, held by the tournament organiser.
3. If the organisers intend to use any images from the day, and/or publish a written report, this will clearly need to be indicated on the entry form and all entrants will need to complete a signed entry form, prior to the tournament, indicating they consent to this. An option not to give consent must also be included.

The supervision of junior age players at competitions is **NOT** the responsibility of the tournament organiser. For individual events, there should be a responsible adult accompanying the child, and for team events, there should be at least two responsible adult per team, whose names are notified to the tournament organiser.

For single sex groups there must be at least one same gender member of staff and for mixed groups there must be at least one male and one female adult.

Table Tennis Wales recognise that in exceptional circumstances the above criteria may not be able to be met, in this situation, the National safeguarding Officer will be notified, and the circumstances recorded.

Adults have a duty of care not to place a junior player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player and not to create a situation that places the opposing individual/team to be in a position whereby they cannot play table tennis as they normally would against adult players.

When deciding if junior age players should compete in open age competitions, each case should be determined on an individual basis, taking into account:

- Player's ability
- Player's cognitive and emotional maturity

REMEMBER;

Children's early experiences will remain with them always and will often determine whether they want to remain playing the game or give up.