

TTW JUNIOR AGE PLAYERS IN COMPETITIONS

Document History

Version	Summary of Changes	Document Status	Date
1.0			27 th February 2020
1.1	Reviewed document and added document history. Also added acceptance and adoption text at end of document.		1 st November 2021
1.2	Edit acceptance and adoption text		21 st July 2021
1.3	Updated to align with CPSU and Sport Wales safeguarding standards	<i>Live</i>	1 st May 2026

Monitoring and Review

The policy will be annually monitored and a full policy review will take place every three years. A policy review may also be conducted in response to any of the following occurrences:

- Changes in legislation or guidance
- Changes in governance of the sport
- Changes in the nature or size of Table Tennis Wales
- A procedural review taking place following a significant case
- Updates from Child Protection in Sport Unit or Sport Wales

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 a structured response should a concern be raised:

1. The name of the individual nominated as designated safeguarding contact 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. 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.
3. An announcement informing those present that no photographs or videos are to be posted on any social media platforms, without explicit permission from all those in the photograph or video, will be carried out at every tournament.

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 adults 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.

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

Safeguarding Requirements for Competitions

For all tournaments organised or sanctioned by Table Tennis Wales (including national ranking events), the following must be in place:

1. Designated Safeguarding Officer

- A named Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) must be appointed for each event
- Their name and contact details must be clearly displayed within the venue
- They are responsible for:
 - Responding to concerns
 - Following TTW safeguarding procedures
 - Recording and reporting incidents appropriately

2. Use of Images and Media

- Entry forms must clearly state if photography, video, or reports will be used
- Written consent must be obtained prior to participation
- Participants must be given a clear option to withhold consent
- Any use of images must comply with safeguarding and data protection guidance

3. Social Media Guidance

- A clear announcement must be made at each event stating:
 - Images/videos must not be shared without consent from all individuals (and parents/carers where applicable)
 - Event organisers should actively discourage inappropriate or unsafe online sharing

Supervision of Junior Players

- Responsibility for supervision lies with the parent/carer or nominated responsible adult, not the event organiser
- Requirements:
 - Individual events: Each junior must be accompanied by a responsible adult
 - Team events: Minimum of two responsible adults per team
 - Names and contact details must be provided to organisers

Gender Representation

- Single-sex groups: At least one adult of the same gender
- Mixed groups: At least one male and one female adult

Ratios and Best Practice

- Supervision ratios should follow national safeguarding guidance
- Adults must be:
 - Suitable and responsible
 - Aware of their duty of care
 - Able to respond in emergencies

Exceptional Circumstances

Where the above supervision requirements cannot be met:

- The National Safeguarding Officer must be informed in advance
- A written risk assessment must be completed
- The decision and rationale must be formally recorded

Participation in Open Age Competitions

Decisions regarding junior participation in open competitions must be made on a case-by-case basis, considering:

- Player ability and experience
- Physical readiness
- Cognitive and emotional maturity
- Welfare and safeguarding risks

The best interests of the child must always take precedence over competition or performance considerations.

Reporting Concerns

- All safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Officer
- Concerns must be:
 - Taken seriously
 - Recorded accurately

- Managed in line with TTW safeguarding procedures
Where necessary, concerns should be escalated to statutory agencies.

Key Principle

Children's experiences in sport should always be positive, safe, and development focused. Early experiences shape long-term participation and wellbeing.

Important:

Please save a copy of this document onto your device, complete the information below and email a copy of the 'signed' document to safeguarding@tabletennis.wales

By 'ticking this box, I confirm that I have read, understand and fully adopt the TTW Junior Age Players in Open Competition document.

Name:

Signed on behalf of: