



Guidance for Parents/Carers

In order to gain the best experience from their involvement in sport, children generally rely on their parents/carers for both emotional and financial support. This influence can be critical as their child becomes involved in training squads and competitive play. Parents/carers should be aware that the English Table Tennis Association expects that everyone involved with table tennis will: respect the rights, dignity and worth of anyone they meet within our sport; treat everyone equally regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, social status or sexual orientation; accept it is all of our responsibility to challenge any injustice that may occur within our sport; accept that everyone has the right to be protected from abuse. It is hoped that the following will prove useful to parents/carers to play a positive part in their child's career in table tennis:

- ✓ Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy all that table tennis has to offer.
- ✓ Encourage respect for the laws of table tennis, support and promote fair play at all times and the acceptance of umpires and officials' decisions.
- ✓ Encourage recognition of good performances in others as well as themselves. Do not applaud opponents' unforced errors (e.g. serving into the net) or their misfortunes.
- ✓ Uphold high standards of behaviour, appearance and the importance of being a good team member.
- ✓ Establish a positive partnership with the coach to help provide the best possible balance between the demands of table tennis, education and home.
- ✓ Ensure that your child is aware of all the arrangements for any trips.
- ✓ Ensure that your child has the correct equipment and clothing for any trips.
- ✓ Be punctual when collecting or dropping off your child.
- ✓ Ensure that your child reads and understands the Code of Conduct for Players.
- ✓ Never exert undue pressure on your child to compete or get results. Be realistic about your child's ability.
- ✓ Always use appropriate language and ensure your child does the same.
- ✓ Under no circumstances condone any rule violation or the use of prohibited substances.
- ✓ Ensure that your child understands that they should take responsibility for their own safety.
- ✓ Show respect and trust the coach working with your child.
- ✓ If you have any questions or queries please deal directly with the coach and not in front of your child. Do not compromise the relationship between the coach and player.
- ✓ Encourage your child to take responsibility for their own actions on and off the table e.g. not blaming others or seeking excuses for their own shortcomings or mistakes, and encourage their greater independence.
- ✓ When at a competition or event please always remember that your role is as a supporter and allow the coach the space to work with your child and never comment on any instructions the coach may give as this could be counter productive.
- ✓ If acting as a responsible adult for a team or squad, parents/carers must have attended a Child Protection Workshop and have been CRB checked.