



# LTA Code of Practice

## For Working with Children

There are many considerations when setting coach-player ratios. Ultimately the responsibility lies with coaches and their tennis venues. When setting ratios, the coach and venue must ensure:

- On court activity is safe
- On court activity is delivered with quality
- On court activity represents good value for money
- Supervision of children will not be compromised in the event of an emergency (or other situation) that requires the coach to leave the court/club.

Coach-player ratios will vary depending on the following factors;

- The age of players
- The facilities available
- The activity taking place
- The level & experience of coach.

It is not possible to give definitive guidance on coach-player ratios due to the considerations above. However, as a useful starting point the table below provides general guidance on coach-player ratios for recreational coaching delivered at optimum quality.

When working alone, as a minimum all coaches should be Level 2 qualified and in possession of a valid DBS check.

Activity	Recommended Ratio	Space	Considerations
TOTS (3-4 years)	1:12	Flexible – not necessarily on tennis courts	Assumption parents are providing on court support. 1:4 with no parental support.
Mini Tennis (Programme)	1:8	Relevant size tennis court for stage	Ratio can increase by 4 players for every assistant
Mini Tennis (Taster / School sessions)	1:12	Flexible – not necessarily on tennis courts	Ratio can increase by 8 players for every assistant (school teacher).
U14	1:12	Across 2-3 full size tennis courts	4 players per court
U18	1:12	Across 2-3 full size tennis courts	4 players per court
Adult Coaching / Training	1:12	Across 3 full size tennis courts	4 players per court

### What age can children be left unsupervised at a tennis venue?

The LTA & RATC recommend that children under the age of 13 are supervised by their parent/carer whilst at a tennis venue & outside of any venue sessions, such as coaching lessons or tennis camps.

*Tennis venues can, at their discretion, opt for a different age but should conduct a thorough risk assessment of the venue, including access to its facilities, the location and security measures to help inform the decision.*

### Supervision Guidance When on a Trip or Tour

#### How many adults do I need to supervise a group of children on a trip?

- 2:8 for children 10 & under
- 2:10 for children aged 11 & over
- You may decide to have a greater adult-to-child ratio dependent on the needs of the children or identified risks.
- At least one of the supervising adults must be the same gender as the children.

#### How many adults do I need to supervise a group of children overnight?

You should have 2 adults/supervisors & at least one must be the same gender as the children.

The exact number of staff and their differing responsibilities will be determined by the profile of the trip and number of children.

*RATC Committee*

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