

VOLUNTEERS AGED 18 OR UNDER

There is no legal barrier to anyone aged 18 or under becoming a coach or volunteer with children or young people in Tennis. If their remit falls into that of regulated work as per the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 then they should be subject to the same recruitment and selection procedures as other volunteers, including Scheme Record/Scheme Record Update (note that there is no lower age limit with regards to PVG Scheme Membership).

Anyone under 16 is defined as a child (under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995), and it is not recommended that they take up regulated work with children. It is however absolutely fine for anyone under 16 to assist and many clubs and venues rely on young helpers to help deliver open days, holiday camps and other activities. It is important however that they are fully supervised (direct supervision) by a more senior qualified coach or volunteer who has been appropriately vetted. In turn, the organisation has a responsibility to support the supervising coach.

Remember that young coaches or volunteers may come under different pressures (e.g. lack of respect from peers, closeness in age could lead to possible relationship) so regular supervision, training and extra support is recommended.

It is important that adult to child ratios are reassessed as a young volunteer may not be experienced/capable of overseeing a group of children and young people. Please refer to the LTA Whats The Score Toolkit which can be downloaded from the LTA Safeguarding webpage.

Tennis Leaders

A tennis leader is someone that is able to support the coach and committee with the day to day running of the tennis venue and tennis programme. Tennis leaders is an exciting programme which can help young people get the first step on the career ladder. Adults who enjoy volunteering see it as a way of getting some informal training around organising competition or taking a role on the committee. It is aimed at anyone over the age of 13 – [click here for more details](#).