

SAFEGUARDING GUIDANCE FOR LIVESTREAMING ACTIVITIES (COACHES)

Updated 11 May 2020

The LTA is aware many coaches will want to stay in contact with their tennis customers and keep them engaged through these unprecedented times. Whether this is through quizzes, fun tennis at home activities/homework or tennis exercises in the garden. This guidance document is designed to help safeguard coaches and their customers, and ensure the LTA continues to put appropriate measures in place for a safe sport. This guidance is intended to supplement existing policies and procedures and reinforce good coaching practices.

This guidance is adapted from recently published guidance for the education sector which was provided by the NSPCC and Department for Education.

Your behaviour

Ensure you adhere to the LTA Code of Conduct for Accredited Coaches, and reinforce robust professional boundaries at all times.

It is still okay to communicate with children if this is done through a WhatsApp group that includes their parent(s). However, you should not give children your personal contact details (such as your personal mobile, personal email or social media details) or communicate with them privately unless this is with parental permission and limited to tennis related matters.

Ensure you are not overly familiar with children and never make inappropriate jokes or comments to or around them, or send messages which end with kisses (“xx”).

Don't add, follow or interact with children on your personal social media account.

Finding a livestreaming platform

Use an appropriate and professional platform, e.g. Zoom, PowWowNow or Skype for your sessions.

Ensure any use of livestreaming systems is in line with privacy and data protection or GDPR requirements. Contact Brabners for legal advice on this if needed.

To help reinforce professional boundaries, use your coaching email to create an account on livestreaming platforms. If you already have an account on a livestreaming platform that uses your personal email, you should create a second one using your coaching email.

Familiarise yourself with the platforms' privacy settings and know how to report any offensive or abusive content.

Hijacking – updated 11 May 2020

There have been reports of people hijacking online meetings and showing graphic and disturbing material. It is therefore strongly recommended that you do not publicly share the meeting ID for any livestreaming sessions you plan to run. The best advice is to request that people register their interest and the meeting ID and password is sent out just prior to the meeting.

Where the session will take place

Coaches should be in a neutral area where nothing personal or inappropriate can be seen or heard in the background.

Children should also be in a safe and appropriate environment with no inappropriate objects/information available.

Make sure any other adults or children in your household know when you will be livestreaming to ensure they are aware of the activity and reduce the chance of disruption.

Parental involvement and consent

You should obtain parental consent in writing for their child to participate in a livestreaming session (see template provided).

If your current procedures do not already cover this, you should ask parents/carers to provide you with important information like emergency contact details and any medical conditions or disabilities you should be aware of. This can be captured on the consent form.

All communication must go through parents/carers directly. Any communication that is to be sent to children must have the parents/carers copied in.

Explain who you will share information with and when you may not be able to keep information confidential (for example, in the event of a safeguarding concern).

Parents/carers must be aware of what their children are being asked to do during sessions, including any websites they will be asked to access, and be clear who their child is going to interact with online.

Any 1-2-1 sessions with children must involve the parents/carers being able to supervise their child, or alternatively, having another coach/member of staff could be present. This supervision would not necessarily require the parents to be in the same room, as long as they are able to check in on the session.

The session should take place at an appropriate time that has been agreed with the parents/carers.

Ground rules

Develop a set of ground rules for sessions that children and their parents/carers sign up to. This should include:

- the expected behaviour of children and parents/carers during sessions and in any e-communication
- that private information will not be shared
- how and when to ask questions during a session
- breaks during the session
- what to do if the session needs to end early due to emergency etc.
- what you will do should a safeguarding issue arise or become known about

Images

You should get consent from parents/carers and child to take and use any images of the child (if you do not already have their consent). See template provided.

Ensure that any images used to do not allow for the identification of the child, e.g. phone number, email, address, school details etc.

Logging information

You should keep a record of any livestreaming sessions with children. Include:

- the date, time and place
- the reason for the contact
- a summary of the activity or discussion
- any issues that came up

Safeguarding Concerns

Ensure that everyone knows that if they have any safeguarding concerns, they can report this online to the LTA Safeguarding Team at <https://safeguardingconcern.lta.org.uk/> and to the police in an emergency.

Examples of concerns which might arise through livestreaming sessions include:

- you see or hear something worrying during a session
- a child discloses abuse during a session
- inappropriate behaviour or messages are used/sent during (or outside of) a session

Additional information and training

Guidance on online safety and abuse: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse/>

Online safety training: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/training/introductory/keeping-children-safe-online-online-course/>

Safe remote learning guidance: <https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/safe-remote-learning/>