



BCTC Junior Play Policy

Safeguarding our members is very important to Bristol Central Tennis Club. We have revised our guidance for Juniors (any player under the age of 18) playing at BCTC in line with current LTA advice and our updated risk assessments. **Juniors should only access the courts or the club in line with policy.**

1. Coached sessions & Junior League

Any junior signed up to a coached session may access the club as part of that session (BCTC membership is not required). The only exception is Junior League. While this is run by our Head Coach, Junior Membership is required to represent the club in any league play.

2. Playing without membership

A Junior can play without BCTC membership outside of a coached session if:

- They are playing with their parent/guardian who is a member and registers them as a visitor; or
- The parent they are playing with holds a **Parent membership** (which covers both the parent and their under 18 year-old children).

3. Playing as a member

We have 2 levels of junior membership (Junior and Full-Junior) at Bristol Central and juniors may play in line with the terms of each membership.

3.1 Junior Members

Junior membership is typically for juniors who – outside of coached sessions – wish to play junior league or play other juniors (supervised by a parent/guardian of each junior). Junior Members may at no time play unsupervised by their parent/guardian.

3.2 Full-Junior Members

Full-Junior membership is for more advanced junior members or those over 14 years old and provides access to wider play outside of coached sessions. To ensure we are providing a safe environment for all, access is granted subject to approval of the Head Coach and type of access is designated by a coloured BCTC lanyard that Full-Junior members must keep with them when at the club and produce when asked to by adult members.

3.2.1 Approval for play in adult sessions – Amber lanyard

Where the Head Coach feels an advanced Junior will benefit from play in particular sessions, they will provide approval to the session/match organiser for the Full-Junior to join the session, but only with supervision during the session and any transport to the session of either:

- a parent/guardian;
- an LTA accredited coach;
- another adult member who holds a current appropriate Enhanced DBS check, agrees to be responsible for the junior, and where the parents/guardian have consented in writing.

All communication between the session organisers/other adult attendees and the junior must go through the parent/guardian. For example, if organised by a WhatsApp group, the parent must be added not the child.



3.2.2 Approval for unsupervised play - Green Lanyard

Where the Head Coach feels a Junior will benefit from wider independent play, and where the Junior **is at least 14 years old**, they will provide approval for unsupervised play. Full-Juniors who are given approval for unsupervised play:

- If playing unsupervised, may only play other juniors and only where they are also approved for independent play.
- Will be given court booking rights (subject to parental consent).
- Will **not** be permitted to bring guests.

Note: Any junior found violating club rules, letting in unauthorized guests, or abusing facilities will have their privileges revoked.

4. Safety requirements

4.1 Junior Responsibilities

Registration & Induction: When a new full-junior member is registered or given a new type of lanyard, parent/guardians will be consulted and provide written approval. The junior will also need to attend a brief induction (covering junior access rules and fire evacuation procedure).

Access: Approved junior full-members will be issued A keys that grant access to the external court gates but will not unlock any part of the main clubhouse. Juniors are strictly prohibited from entering the building unless an adult is present at the club. All juniors are prohibited from accessing the balcony unless accompanied by an adult member of the club.

Floodlights: Unless an adult member is at the club to operate floodlights, unsupervised play is permitted only during daylight hours only. Juniors will not have access to court floodlights; if night falls and no adult is present, play must cease.

Emergency Instructions: In the event of an emergency or fire, juniors must follow a simple three-step rule: Leave the site immediately, get to a safe place, and call 999 or a parent.

4.2 Adult member responsibilities

Clubhouse Security: Adult members must ensure the main clubhouse building is fully locked when leaving the club, even if juniors are still playing on the courts.

Keys: Under no circumstances should an adult member key holder give their key to either their own children or any other junior members.

Challenge: When playing at the club and unsupervised juniors are playing, if green lanyards of the juniors are not visible, adult members should politely ask to see their green lanyards. If they are not able to produce it, the adult should:

- Refer the junior to signage explaining junior access rules and how they can get in touch about becoming an approved junior;
- Either ask the juniors to leave and report the incident to a coach/ member of the committee or alert another member/coach/committee membership and ask them to do so.

In case of any questions on this policy please contact the Head Coach or email bctcmembers@gmail.com.