

Children's Eligibility Policy for Sedgefield Tennis Club Membership

1. Introduction

This policy outlines the eligibility criteria, terms, and conditions for children aged fifteen years or younger seeking membership at our tennis club at Sedgefield Tennis Club, in the Western Cape, South Africa. The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for all junior members.

2. Eligibility Criteria

- Children must be fifteen years of age or younger at the time of application to be eligible for junior membership.
- Children must demonstrate an interest in tennis and a willingness to abide by the club's rules and regulations.
- Parental or guardian consent is required for children under the age of sixteen to apply for membership.

3. Membership Application Process

- Parents or guardians must complete a membership application form on behalf of the child.
- The application form should include relevant personal details, emergency contact information, and any medical conditions or allergies that the club should be aware of.
- The application form must be submitted to the club's membership committee for review.
- A child may only play tennis at Sedgefield Tennis Club after their parents receive formal notification that their membership has been approved.

4. Terms and Conditions

- Junior members must adhere to the club's code of conduct at all times. This includes respecting other members, coaches, and club staff, as well as following all facility rules.
- Junior members are encouraged to participate in club activities, including group coaching sessions, social events, and tournaments.
- Junior members must always wear appropriate tennis attire and non-marking tennis shoes when using the club's facilities.
- Junior members are responsible for their own equipment and belongings. The club is not liable for any lost or stolen items.
- Parents or guardians are responsible for supervising their children while they are at the club, especially during unsupervised practice sessions or social events.
- Junior members are expected to treat the club's facilities with care and respect, including keeping the courts clean and free from litter.
- Any behaviour deemed inappropriate or disruptive by club management may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or termination of membership.

5. Parental Involvement

- Parents or guardians are encouraged to support their children's participation in tennis activities and events at the club.
- Parents or guardians are welcome to attend coaching sessions and matches to support and encourage their children.
- Parents or guardians are responsible for ensuring their children's safety and well-being while at the club, including transportation to and from the facility.
- Sedgefield Tennis Club does **NOT** offer childcare services. No member of the tennis club can assume child supervision or child care duties.

6. Eligibility to join adults in a tennis game

- Skill Level:
 - A junior tennis player may be invited to join social and tournament events regularly if a committee member advises the committee that they have observed the player playing and are satisfied that their game will add value to these events. Alternatively, a recommendation letter from a recognised tennis coach could also be acceptable.
 - Children who may not yet be skilled enough to participate in social tennis events will be informed of coaching and training opportunities at the club tailored to their level.
 - The tennis club committee has the final say regarding a member's perceived skill level.
- Safety Concerns: The club will implement measures to ensure the safety of junior members on the premises. This includes:
 - Not allowing children fifteen years or younger access to the facilities of the tennis club without parental/guardian supervision.
 - Parents/Guardians must remain at Sedgefield Tennis Club for the duration of the child's participation. Parents/Guardians may only cede this requirement to a contracted tennis coach who will act as the legal guardian in the absence of the parent.
 - Providing first aid kits and emergency response protocols in case of accidents or injuries.
 - Educating both children and parents/guardians about safety protocols and the importance of staying within designated areas of the club.

7. Acknowledgment and Agreement

- By submitting a membership application for their child, parents or guardians acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by the club's rules and regulations outlined in this policy.

- Parents or guardians further acknowledge that they are responsible for their child's behaviour and compliance with club policies.

8. Review and Amendments

- This policy will be reviewed periodically by the club's management team to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.
- Any amendments to this policy will be communicated to members promptly.

This Children's Eligibility Policy for Tennis Club Membership is designed to provide clear guidelines for junior members and their parents or guardians, addressing concerns regarding skill level, safe use of tennis club facilities and general safety. By adhering to these terms and conditions, we aim to create a positive and supportive environment for young tennis enthusiasts at our club.