



## Aylesbury Squash Club U14 Team Squash Policy

The Aylesbury Squash Club is committed to prioritising the well-being of all children and adults at risk, promoting safeguarding in our club at all times, including all programmes and events we run. All activities, events and trips arranged by the club shall be run in accordance with the Bucks Squash Safeguarding Guidance. This Policy strives to minimise risk, deliver a positive Squash experience for everyone and respond appropriately to all safeguarding concerns/disclosures.

The Club aims to create an environment of inclusion, but not at the expense of child welfare.

All prerequisites must be met below for a Junior to be considered by the Club for participation in team squash. Thereafter all 5 requirements must be met for the Junior to be put forward.

### ASC Prerequisite

All Juniors must:-

- Be able to demonstrate they are competent and able to play a full game of squash against adult players.
  - This is assessed through participation in the mixed and/or ladies internal leagues.
- Not have received, corroborated, and repeated, negative feedback & complaints from internal or external opponents or other members.
  - This is assessed through any written complaints received by The Committee about the individual's conduct within the past three months.
- Be emotionally mature enough to play competitive games with adults.
  - This is assessed through observations by The Committee, Club Coach or relevant Team Captain within the past three months.
- Have been taught the basis of good sporting behaviour and rules at appropriate level. Including but not limited to:-
  - Warm-up up etiquette, timings and appropriate number of hits
  - Greeting your opponent and shaking hands and thanking them at the end of the game
  - Lets, strokes and down/out guidance.
    - This is assessed through observations by The Committee, Lead Coach or relevant Team Captain within the past three months.
- Be aware of their behaviour and the impact on the opponent, including but not limited to:-
  - Behaviour (verbal & non verbal) - between games, during decisions, during or after point
  - Misuse of equipment
  - Excessive or aggressive actions, and including making no effort or refusing to play on/return a good ball.

- o This is assessed through any observed instances of non-compliance by The Committee, Lead Coach or relevant Team Captain within the past three months.

### **Requirement - Juniors**

Juniors under the age of 14 must adhere to and demonstrate compliance with the Club's 'Code of Conduct' July 2022, a copy of which is attached.

The Club will not put forward U14 Juniors in team squash who have demonstrated within the last three months any instance of non-compliance with the requirements above. The Club must provide examples of non-compliance to the parent of the Child should the decision be to not put forward the individual.

### **Requirement - Parents**

Parents of Juniors under the age of 14 must adhere to and demonstrate compliance with the Club's 'Code of Conduct' July 2022, a copy of which is attached.

Juniors playing in team matches must be watched courtside by parents/ carer during their matches and supervised during their time at the club.

The Club will not put forward U14 Juniors in team squash whose parents have demonstrated within the last three months any instance of non-compliance with the requirements above. The Club must provide examples of non-compliance to the parent of the Child should the decision be to not put forward the individual.

### **Requirement - Team Captains**

Team captains of Juniors under the age of 14 must adhere to and demonstrate compliance with the Club's 'Code of Conduct' July 2022, a copy of which is attached.

The Club will not allow any team captain to play U14 Juniors in team who have not complied with the requirements above.

### **Requirement**

#### **Meeting - An in-person informal meeting must take place involving;**

- From ASC the Safeguarding Officer or Deputy Safeguarding Officer (or Chairperson in the absence of a safeguarding officer in post),
  - The coach of the child or another competent coach; level 2 coach or above.
  - The relevant Team Captain
  - At least one parent of the child,
  - The child,
- o The purpose of the meeting is to ensure that the benefit of the U14 junior playing in a competitive match against another club is fully understood by all parties and to discuss any concerns. It is also to ensure that the child will not sustain a negative experience from being put forward to play team squash, and to ensure that the requirements for U14 juniors playing in a competitive match against another club are fully understood by the junior and that the child themselves wants to participate at this level.

### **Decision 1 (post meetings)**

The child/parent must answer questions that give no reasonable doubt that they will not have a negative experience from participating in team squash.

### **Requirement 2**

- 1 Written consent and confirmation that the policy and the Juniors and Parents Codes of Conduct have been read, understood and will be accepted by the parents and child must be provided.
- 2 Also, written confirmation their junior playing in team matches shall be watched courtside by parents/ carer during their matches, and supervised by them during their time at the home or away venue by the Parent/Guardian

A copy of the written consents described in 1 and 2 above shall be sent to the Safeguarding Officer, Lead Coach and the relevant Team Captain before the child plays in a team match.

### **Decision 2**

Should written consent and confirmation from the parent not be received by the Club officials listed above prior to playing, the Junior shall not be put forward. ▪

**Decision 3**

Should a match be played during the season at which the parents and/or juniors Code of Conduct, and the required parental/carer supervision are not complied with, then it is likely that the junior shall not be permitted to play for the remainder of the season.