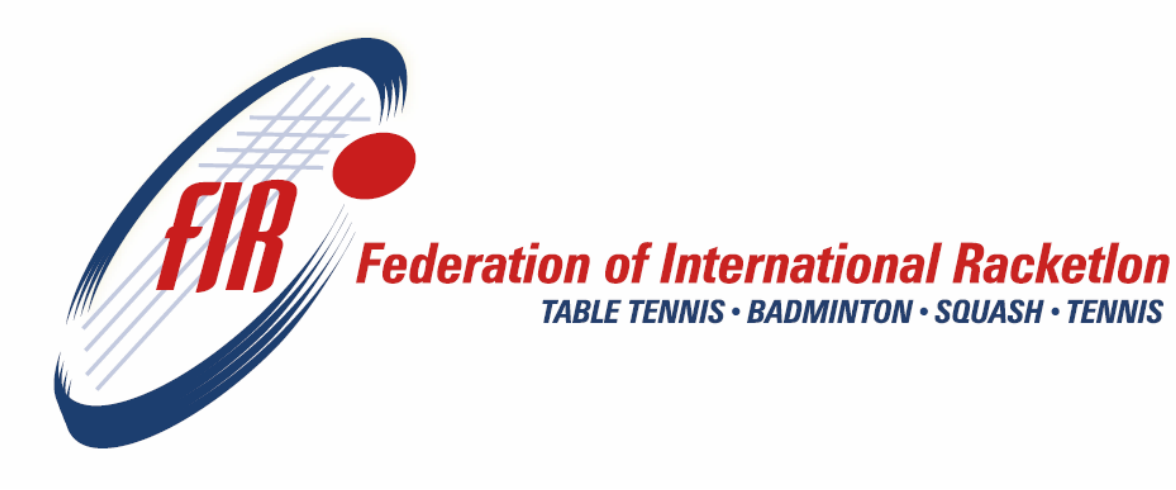


Junior Safeguarding Policy

26th October 2026

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Version History[1]

Version	Changes	Status
26.10.2026	Initial Version	Current

[1] Non-cosmetic changes only

1. Purpose and Scope

The Federation of International Racketlon (FIR) is committed to providing a safe, positive and respectful environment for children and young people participating in Racketlon.

For the purposes of this policy, a **junior is any person under the age of 18**, irrespective of the competition category in which they participate.

This policy applies to FIR officials and representatives, tournament organisers and officials, referees, coaches, team managers, volunteers and other persons acting in an official capacity at FIR-sanctioned events.

The policy establishes minimum safeguarding standards for FIR activities. Where the laws of the host country or the rules of the relevant national federation impose higher safeguarding requirements, those requirements must also be complied with.

2. General Safeguarding Principles

Junior participants must be treated with dignity and respect.

Bullying, harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, physical or emotional abuse, exploitation, grooming and other inappropriate behaviour towards juniors will not be tolerated at FIR activities.

Adults working with or around junior participants must maintain appropriate professional boundaries and act in a manner consistent with their position of responsibility.

3. Appropriate Adult Beaviour

Adults acting in an official capacity at an FIR event should:

- use appropriate language and behaviour;
- avoid unnecessary one-to-one situations with a junior where they cannot reasonably be observed by others;
- wherever reasonably possible, include a parent, guardian, team manager or other responsible adult in direct electronic communications with a junior;
- avoid inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact;
- not share a bedroom alone with an unrelated junior;
- not share a shower with an unrelated junior;
- not use their position of authority or trust to develop an inappropriate relationship with a junior;
- never engage in sexualised behaviour, comments or communications with a junior;
- not provide alcohol, tobacco, nicotine products, illegal drugs or other prohibited substances to juniors.

These requirements do not prevent normal and appropriate sporting interaction, including coaching, refereeing, first aid and appropriate encouragement or congratulation.

4. Responsibility for Junior Participants

Participation in an FIR-sanctioned tournament does not transfer parental or supervisory responsibility for a junior to FIR or the tournament organiser.

A junior remains under the responsibility of their parent or legal guardian, or another responsible adult authorised by the parent or legal guardian.

Parents and guardians are responsible for ensuring that appropriate supervision arrangements are in place throughout the junior's participation in the event, including outside scheduled matches.

Tournament organisers, FIR officials, referees and volunteers do not automatically assume responsibility for supervising a junior by virtue of the junior's participation in the tournament.

In team competitions, a national federation may nominate a team manager or another responsible adult to supervise its junior players.

A Tournament Director has the right to refuse the entry of a junior if no confirmation from the parent or legal guardian is provided.

5. Travel and Accommodation

Responsibility for a junior's travel, accommodation and supervision outside the sporting competition rests with the junior's parent or legal guardian, national federation or another responsible adult authorised by the parent or legal guardian.

Where an adult travels with or supervises juniors who are not their own children, appropriate safeguarding practices and all applicable national requirements must be followed.

6. Photography, Filming and Livestreaming

Photography, filming and livestreaming are normal parts of international sporting events and may include junior participants.

Tournament organisers should inform participants and parents or guardians that photography, filming and livestreaming may take place.

Images or recordings involving juniors must not be taken or used in a manner that is exploitative, degrading, inappropriate or reasonably likely to cause harm.

Parents or guardians who have a safeguarding concern relating to the photography or filming of a junior should raise this with the Tournament Director or Safeguarding Contact.

7. Safeguarding Contact

Each FIR sanctioned event shall have a named **Safeguarding Contact** appointed by the Tournament Director or FIR Delegate. In the absence of a named Safeguarding Contact, the FIR Delegate, if on-site, shall take on this function; if not, the Tournament Director shall serve as Safeguarding Contact.

The name and contact details of the Safeguarding Contact should be made reasonably accessible to participants, parents, team managers and tournament officials.

The Safeguarding Contact shall:

- receive safeguarding concerns;
- listen to and record relevant information;
- take reasonable immediate steps where necessary to protect a junior;
- inform the Tournament Director, National Federations and/or FIR where appropriate;
- refer serious concerns to the appropriate local authorities or safeguarding organisations where required.

The Safeguarding Contact is not expected to conduct a criminal or specialist child-protection investigation.

8. Reporting a Safeguarding Concern

Anyone who witnesses, suspects or receives information concerning behaviour that may place a junior at risk should report the concern promptly to the Safeguarding Contact, Tournament Director or an FIR Player Representative.

A junior may also raise a concern directly with any tournament official with whom they feel comfortable. The official should pass the concern to the Safeguarding Contact as soon as reasonably possible.

Where there is an immediate risk to the safety of a child, the appropriate emergency, police or child-protection services in the host country should be contacted.

Serious safeguarding incidents connected with an FIR-sanctioned event should also be reported to FIR.

A person raising a genuine safeguarding concern in good faith should not suffer retaliation for doing so.

9. Responding to Concerns

The immediate welfare of the junior shall be the primary consideration when responding to a safeguarding concern.

FIR or a Tournament Director may take reasonable precautionary measures while a serious concern is being considered. These may include restricting an individual's access to junior participants or removing the individual from FIR sanctioned tournaments or any FIR activity.

Such precautionary measures do not constitute a determination of wrongdoing.

Where allegations may involve criminal conduct or require specialist investigation, the matter should be referred to the appropriate authorities. FIR should avoid conducting an investigation that could interfere with an official investigation.

Any subsequent disciplinary proceedings by FIR shall be handled in accordance with the FIR Statutes, Tournament Regulations and if necessary, the FIR Board of Arbitration.

10. Confidentiality and Information

Safeguarding information should be handled sensitively and shared only with persons who reasonably need the information in order to protect the junior, manage the concern or comply with legal obligations.

Absolute confidentiality cannot be promised where information needs to be shared to protect a junior.

The privacy and dignity of the junior and other persons involved should be respected throughout the process.

11. Coming Into Force, Review

This policy was initially passed by the FIR Council on 26th October 2026. It comes into effect immediately.

The FIR Council shall review this policy periodically and may amend it where necessary to reflect experience, changes in FIR activities or developments in safeguarding practice.

This policy can only be amended and modified by the FIR Council.

FIR – Federation of International Racketlon

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