

Content:

Hosting is a very economical and practical way of allowing young people to access training camps and coaching as they journey through their table tennis career. Successful hosting can significantly add to the young person's experiences and confidence and lead to friendships within our sport. However, the process needs to be managed carefully with a view to safeguarding both the players and the host families.

Detail:

Organiser/s of events requiring host families should be aware that young people must not be placed with a host family for a period in excess of 28 days if they are under 16 years old. If this should happen then the local authority may deem them to be undertaking private fostering.

Host families should always be, where possible, recruited from within the club/league/organiser/school's known contacts within table tennis. If this is not possible then please follow the guidelines but also seek advice from the local club/league welfare officer or the Table Tennis England's Safeguarding Manager.

Hosting:

The organiser/s should arrange to visit the proposed host family's homes along with the local club/league welfare officer or local club/league officers. They should ensure the following:

- All adult members of the host family should agree to abide by the Table Tennis England's Safeguarding Guidelines and be given a copy to keep.
- Any members of the host family over the age of 16 years must be required to undergo an enhanced DBS check.
- Young people should be placed in host families where there are young people of a similar age and identified gender.
- Young people should have their own bedroom. However, if this is not practical then they should only share with a young person of the same identified gender and similar age. The guest young person's parents/carers consent to the arrangements must be sought.
- Host families must be advised of any medical, dietary, or religious needs of the guest young person.
- If disabled players are included in the group, then the host family must be checked to ensure they can meet any special needs in terms of accessibility and receive advice and support.
- Arrangements for transporting guests during the event should be clear and host families are advised as to their responsibilities.
- Guest young people must be given a contact number for their staff and given easy access at all times during the trip to contact them and/or their families.
- All arrangements should be agreed and shared by the hosts and the visiting group in advance so the guest young people's parents/carers know and are aware of all the arrangements. Good communication is key to the success of hosting.
- All staff involved must have a complete list of all the visiting group including names, addresses and emergency contact numbers and the relevant details should be shared with the host family for each guest.