

# STARTING A JUNIOR CLUB

## ADDITIONAL POINTS TO CONSIDER

In addition to the information on our website, there are some extra key points consider if you're looking at setting up a junior club. These are equally important if you already run an adults-only tchoukball club and want to expand to either include new members that are under the age of 18 or set up a new junior section.

### FOR NEW JUNIOR CLUBS

- **Do you have a Tchoukball Coach Level 1 qualification?** Parents will trust a qualified coach and you will learn important skills about how to play tchoukball and importantly how to train others. When advertising for new members, don't forget to mention this and your highest level of experience, for example national team player. It provides reassurance that you know what you are doing.
- **Do you have a support team around you of other coaches and volunteers?** Coaching children is not the same as coaching adults. You will need to ensure drills are set up faster and be aware of what is going on all around you. It's always useful to have extra eyes and ears, especially when dealing with children. Even simple things such as having someone take the money at the start of a session allow you to set up equipment, get the first drill ready, or even interact with the players as they arrive.
- **Do you and your fellow volunteers have an up to date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check?** If not, please get in touch with Tchoukball UK via [admin@tchoukball.org.uk](mailto:admin@tchoukball.org.uk). It is essential coaches and volunteers have this in place if working with children.
- **You will need to appoint a safeguarding officer / child safety officer** for the club.
- **We also recommend appointing a parent liaison officer** on your committee. Their role is to create a link between the club committee and the other parents. They can provide feedback, positive or negative, and share ideas that might come from the parents. Plus, bringing in the families of your players is a great way of encouraging

support for the club and giving it an inclusive feel. You will be surprised how many more volunteers this can bring, even if just for one off events such as fundraisers.

- Eventually, you might even be able to set up a fundraising and events sub-committee utilising this extra support you now have from families.

## FOR EXISTING (ADULT-ONLY) CLUBS

- Have you tried **holding a taster session** to see if there is interest for a junior section?
- **Have you thought about a minimum age?** Remember each child will have different technical and physical capabilities as well being at different levels of physical and mental maturity, so they won't all be ready at the same time or age. It's better to wait until you feel a player is ready to join, rather than bringing them in too early, only to watch them give up, or worse, get hurt.
- **If you are looking to introduce under-18 players into the senior section** – instead of a separate junior section – could you train these members in a bubble with others of their age of skill level first, until you and importantly the youth players are ready.
- **Think about providing a senior 'mentor'** who can guide them through training drills and matches and encourage them and talk to other senior players. Ensure they know their youth players limits and how best to protect and encourage them.
- **Most importantly**, don't see bringing in under-18 players as a burden but instead as an opportunity to attract the next generation of players. They are much more likely to bring their siblings and friends along. And by players starting at a younger age they have longer to develop their skill level. Who knows, you might be coaching the next international tchoukball player!

If in doubt contact TUK Development Director, [Ian Parker](#) and he can help you with any of your questions and queries.