

**Exploring Interpersonal Relationships in Youth Tennis**

**Child Participant Information Form**

(To be read and understood by the parent regarding the requirements of their child participating in this study)

**Investigators Details:**

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We would like to invite you to participate in our study. Before you make a decision, we would like you to understand what the criteria and requirements of participation are for this study. The primary researcher will provide you with a summary of this information sheet before your child participates and answer a questions or concerns regarding their participation should you have any.

**Section A:**

**What is the purpose of the study?**

Youth sport can be a stressful environment for participating child-athletes. To cope with these stressors, parents and coaches form a critical agent of the social support system within youth sport. However, parents, child-athletes, and coaches seldom act in isolation and consequently, numerous interactions occur and relationships form. These relationships continue to provide a resource for child-athletes when improving their ability to acquire performance and developmental skills both in and out of sport. Alongside improving the athletic experiences of child-athletes, relationships between these members can improve the experiences that parents and coaches have given that they too have exposure to a significant amount of stress.

In light of these findings, there have been fewer attempts made when looking to explore the relationships between parents, child-athletes, and coaches as a whole. Preliminary research has shown that this should be explored further given the extent to which parents, child-athletes, and coaches are required to function as a team. Therefore, this study will look to go beyond the general interactions between parents, child-athletes, and coaches, and explore the nature of the relationships that these members have within the context of youth tennis. It is with the aim to improve the experiences of parents, child-athletes, and coaches within youth sport by facilitating positive relationships – an important social resource.

**Who is doing this research and why?**

The primary researcher within this study has extensive experience speaking with parents and coaches within youth sport. Although at first less familiar with the culture of youth tennis within the UK, considerable effort has been made by the researcher to become familiar with this environment. Specifically, informal conversations with various parents and coaches have been conducted. Additionally, the researcher has begun the process of completing the Tennis Level 1 Coaching Qualification to aid empathetic understanding. The researcher also has prior experience collecting data (i.e. interviews) in qualitative research.

The supervisors for this research project all have extensive experience engaging with parents, coaches, and child-athletes across a variety of youth sport contexts. As such, they have numerous publications in circulation exploring the role of parents and coaches, the relationships between them and the athletes, and the context and culture of youth tennis. Additionally, they are highly regarded applied practitioners within the field of sport and exercise psychology. This study is part of a postgraduate doctoral research thesis supported by Loughborough University, the Lawn Tennis Association, and International Tennis Federation.

**Are there any exclusion criteria?**

To participate in this study, the child must be currently active as an athlete in youth tennis. The minimum requirement is the child must have been active as an athlete in their age-group for at least 12 months (for U10’s, the requirement is reduced to 6 months) and is required to maintain their relationship with their parent and coach for the duration of this research project.

Unfortunately, you will not be required for this study if:

* You are not currently a parent, coach, or athlete within youth tennis.
* You haven’t been working with the same parent, coach, or athlete for at least a year (U12s and U17s only). For U10s, a minimum of six months is required.
* All members of the group (i.e. parent, coach, and child-athlete) do not agree to participate in the study.

**What will my child be asked to do?**

Your child will be asked to participate in an interview with the lead researcher. Prior to this interview, your child will be provided with a pre-interview task where they will be asked to reflect and record their progress and nature of their relationships with other members involved in youth tennis. Additionally, they will be asked to bring any memorabilia or documents (e.g. photographs, letters, newspaper articles, print outs of conversations etc.) that they feel reflects important instances in their relationship with other members. After completing the interview, they will be asked to join a WhatsApp group to interact with other members of the group. The researcher will also be present in the group.

**Once they take part, can my child change their mind?**

Once both you and your child have read the information sheets provided and you are happy that you understand what your child’s participation in this study will require, we will provide your child with an assent form and provide you with an informed consent form to sign on behalf of the child. Upon reading and signing this form, this will indicate to the researchers that you are happy for your child to adhere to the requirements of this study.

**Please note that as a parent, you will be required to sign two consent forms (one to indicate your participation in the study and one to indicate your consent for your child to participate in the study).**

Should your child wish to withdraw from the study at any time, they should inform the primary researcher as soon as possible. They are not required to provide a reason for withdrawing; however, we do ask that you and your child carefully read the requirements and commitments needed to complete this study beforehand to minimise the risk that they may need to withdraw during the study. Please note that once the results of the study have anonymised and analysed with other participant data, it may not be possible to withdraw their individual data from the research.

**Will my child be asked to attend any sessions and where will these be?**

Interviews will be conducted face-to-face at location convenient to you, the child, and the researcher. Should this not be possible, the researcher will ask to arrange an interview to be conducted over skype.

**How long will it take?**

The length of the interview will be determined by the openness and detail in the child’s answers. However, this will fall approximately between 60 and 90 minutes. The WhatsApp groups will be open for approximately 2 months post completion of the interviews.

**Are there any disadvantages or risks in participating?**

* The time required for participating in this study is ongoing and therefore, may require evenings or periods outside of yours and your child’s normal routine.
* If another member of the group withdraws, this may affect the rest of their participant requirements.
* Your child may experience slight psychosocial discomfort as they will be discussing experiences around their relationship with others in the group whilst continuing their interactions.

**Section B:**

**Is there anything my child needs to do before the sessions?**

Before participation begins, your child will be required to complete an assent form and you will be required to complete an informed consent form of their behalf. Prior to the interview, your child will be asked to send their pre-interview timeline/reflections to the lead researcher.

**Is there anything my child needs to bring with them?**

Your child is asked to bring the documents that they feel represents the nature of their relationship with other members in the group.

**What are the possible benefits of participating?**

* Your child will be provided with an opportunity to understand the role they play and contribution they make to youth tennis from a holistic perspective.
* Your child will be able to practice their reflection and communication skills. For athletes in particular, this is a valuable skill that can contribute to athletic development.
* Your child will contribute a larger body of literature aimed at improving relationships within youth sport to further the athletic experiences of those proximally involved (this may, in the future, influence policy and strategic decisions).

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

Loughborough University will be using information/data from your child in order to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that the University is responsible for looking after your child’s information and using it properly.

**What personal information will be collected from my child and how will it be used?**

* Name
* Age
* Contact Details (i.e. email address and telephone number)
* Gender
* Ethnic Background

The aforementioned personal data will be collected to arrange interviews and maintain connections between participants and the researchers. Personal information will also serve to provide background data about the sample for other researchers and readers interested in furthering this area of research.

**What is the legal basis for processing my child’s personal information?**

Personal data will be processed on the public task basis. Individuals’ rights to erasure and data portability do not apply if you are processing on the basis of public task. However, individuals do have a right to object.

**How long will my child’s personal information be retained?**

We will keep identifiable personal information about your child until the completion of the study (projected finish is 01/09/2020).

**Will my child’s personal information be shared with others?**

All personal information may be shared with the researchers and supervisors involved with this study. No personal information will be shared with third parties outside of this cohort.

**Will my child taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

To ensure confidentiality, pseudonyms will be given to all participants when reporting individual information associated with this study. Information from individual members shared away from other members will not be shared across group members. Additionally, anonymised data will not be kept in the same document identifying participants using their personal information.

**How will the anonymised data/results collected from my child be used?**

The findings collected from this study will be used as larger doctoral thesis project. Additionally, these findings may be shared in journal publications and at conferences.

**How long will the anonymised data/results be retained?**

Any hardcopies of forms (e.g. consent forms, personal information, and written data) will be held using a locked facility, whilst all electronic copies will be kept within password-protected files.Audio recordings from interviews will be retained using password protected software and shared with other researchers in this study using a secure system. All anonymised transcribed interviews, audio recordings, written data will be stored in the University data repository indefinitely. Any data that cannot be anonymised will be destroyed at the completion of the study (projected finish is 01/09/2020).

**I have some more questions; who should I contact?**

If you have any more questions, concerns, or issues, please contact the primary researcher:

Ella Williams

[E.Williams3@lboro.acuk](mailto:E.Williams3@lboro.acuk)

Should this method be insufficient to address your questions or concerns, please contact the first supervisor of this research study:

Professor Chris Harwood

[C.G.Harwood@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:C.G.Harwood@lboro.ac.uk)

**What if I am not happy with how the research was conducted?**

If you are not happy with how the research was conducted, please contact the Secretary of the Ethics Approvals (Human Participants) Sub-Committee, Research Office, Hazlerigg Building, Loughborough University, Epinal Way, Loughborough, LE11 3TU. Tel: 01509 222423. Email: [researchpolicy@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:researchpolicy@lboro.ac.uk)

The University also has policies relating to Research Misconduct and Whistle Blowing which are available online at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/committees/ethics-approvals-human-participants/additionalinformation/codesofpractice/> .

If you require any further information regarding the General Data Protection Regulations, please see: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/privacy/research-privacy/>.