

**Exploring Interpersonal Relationships in Youth Tennis**

**Adult Participant Information Form**

**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 you participate and answer a questions or concerns 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, you should be currently active in a role as a tennis parent or coach within youth tennis. The minimum requirement is you must have been active as a tennis parent or coach in the child’s age group for at least 12 months (for U10s, the requirement is reduced to 6 months) and you are required to maintain your relationship with the child and other group member (i.e. parent or coach depending on your role) for the duration of this research project.

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

* You are not currently a parent, or coach within youth tennis.
* You haven’t been working with the same parent/coach, and child-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 I be asked to do?**

You will be asked to participate in an interview with the lead researcher. Prior to this interview, you will be provided with a pre-interview task where you will be asked to reflect and record the progress and nature of your relationships with other members of involved in youth tennis. Additionally, you will be asked to bring any memorabilia or documents (e.g. photographs, letters, newspaper articles, print outs of conversations etc.) that you feel reflects important instances in your relationship with other members. After completing the interview, you 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 I take part, can I change my mind?**

Once you have read the information sheet and are happy that you understand what participation in this study will require, we will provide you with an informed consent form. Upon reading and signing this form, this will indicate to the researchers that you are happy to adhere to the requirements of the study. Participants under 18 years old will complete an Assent Form and their parents will complete an additional consent form to provide consent that they are happy for their child to participate.

Should you wish to withdraw from the study at any time, please inform the primary researcher as soon as possible. You are not required to provide a reason for withdrawing. However, we do ask you to carefully read the requirements and commitments needed to complete this study beforehand to minimise the risk that you 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 your individual data from the research.

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

Interviews will be conducted face-to-face at location convenient to you 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 your 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 your normal routine.
* If another member of the group withdraws, this may affect the rest of your participant requirements.
* You may experience slight psychosocial discomfort as you will be discussing experiences around your relationship with others in the group whilst continuing your interactions.

**Section B:**

**Is there anything I need to do before the sessions?**

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

**Is there anything I need to bring with me?**

Please bring the documents that you feel represent the nature of your relationship with other members in the group.

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

* You will be provided with an opportunity to understand the role you play and contribution you make to youth tennis from a holistic perspective.
* You will be able to practice your reflection and communication skills. For athletes in particular, this is a valuable skill that can contribute to athletic development.
* You 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 you 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 information and using it properly.

**What personal information will be collected from me 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 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 personal information be retained?**

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

**Will my 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 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 me 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

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

**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

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/>.