

Irish Table Tennis Association Ltd

ULSTER BRANCH



Physical Contact Policy

Physical contact should always be intended to meet the child's needs, not the adult's. Adults should only use appropriate contact to assist in the development of the skills or activity or for safety reasons, e.g. to prevent or treat an injury. This should be in an open environment with the permission and understanding of the participant.

There are a number of principles that should be followed when the activity involves physical contact;

- Contact should be determined by the age and developmental stage of the participant – don't do something that a child can do for him/herself.
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact – show the player by demonstration or by holding the bat to amend their stance and angles.
- Any necessary contact should be in response to the needs of the child and not the adult
- Contact should be determined by the age and development stage of the participant, and it should not be necessary to do something that the child can do for itself
- If necessary, contact is required it should be in an open environment with the permission and understanding of the participant
- Never engage in inappropriate touching
- Physical contact is justified to protect the player from an injury/accident or to treat such occurrences.
- The adult should seek to explain the nature and reason for the physical contact to the child or parent when reinforcing the teaching or coaching skill. Unless the situation is an emergency, the adult should ask the child or parent for permission.
- Any form of physical punishment of children is unlawful, as is any form of physical response to misbehaviour unless it is by way of physical intervention to prevent a young person from; Harming themselves, Harming others and Damaging property

It is particularly important that adults understand this to ensure the safety of their youth members and to protect their own position as well as the overall reputation of the organisation in which they are involved.