

The University of Queensland Tennis Club Inc.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP DECLARATION

SPORT INVOLVING CHILDREN

Because the focus of university sporting clubs is organizing sport for young adults and such clubs are not well situated to supervise children, most clubs affiliated with UQ Sport Ltd (formerly The University of Queensland Sports & Physical Recreation Association) are precluded from having any junior members apart from first-year UQ students. Some clubs, like the The University of Queensland Tennis Club Inc. (UQ Tennis Club), are allowed to accept a small number of juniors as members.

Under Queensland Law, all persons under 18 years of age are classed as children (minors) and organizations conducting sport involving any children are subject to the provisions of the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act & Regulations* which requires that children are able to play in a safe environment. Although the UQ Tennis Club does not conduct junior-only sport, some members are children under Queensland Law. For example, the majority of first-year university students are under 18 years of age when they join the Club. Under the Club's *Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy*, all Management Committee members are required to undergo the Working with Children Check and possess a current Blue Card because they could have dealings with members and casual players who are children.

However, given the nature of Tennis Fixtures in Brisbane where matches are played at innumerable venues throughout the city (ranging from large centres like the UQ Sport Tennis Centre to single private courts) and the fact that the UQ Tennis Club fields over seventy teams per week in various competitions, it is beyond the capabilities of the UQ Tennis Club to supervise any minors playing in its teams in Internal Fixtures or Brisbane Fixtures. It is also beyond the capabilities of the Brisbane Night Tennis Association Inc. (BNTA) to supervise any minors playing in its Brisbane-wide Fixtures.

As part of its *Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy*, all members of the UQ Tennis Club are made aware of their responsibility to protect any children (they play with or against) from harm and to treat them with respect. Because many juniors over 17 years of age are relatively independent with a driver's licence & access to a car and some, such as first-year university students, are living away from home, it is not feasible to impose mandatory parental supervisory requirements on this age group. However, because juniors under 17 years of age are dependent on others for transport to and from matches, juniors under 17 years of age are considered to be more vulnerable.

Therefore, a membership application from a junior under 17 years of age will only be considered where a parent or guardian of the junior signs the declaration below accepting that he/she will be responsible for the junior player and that the UQ Tennis Club is not responsible for the supervision of that junior player.

DECLARATION BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF PLAYER UNDER 17 YEARS OF AGE

This junior is under 17 years of age at the time of this declaration. I understand that the application of this junior to join The University of Queensland Tennis Club Inc. (UQ Tennis Club) will only be considered by the Club's Management Committee subject to my signature below which confirms that I understand and accept that the UQ Tennis Club cannot supervise this junior while playing Fixtures, Tournaments or Social Tennis and that I am wholly responsible (either personally or by my arrangement with another responsible adult) for the transportation of this junior to and from matches and for the supervision of this junior during matches at the UQ Sport Tennis Centre or when playing for the UQ Tennis Club at other venues. **I accept that the UQ Tennis Club (and, where applicable, the BNTA), its officers and members are not responsible for the supervision and safety of this junior before, during or after matches.**

Signature:

Name (print):

Relationship to Junior (parent or guardian):

Date: Name of Junior: