

The Club should have

- ▼ Somebody on site who holds a first aid qualification, access to a first aid kit and telephone
- ▼ Guidelines for dealing with injuries and mechanisms in place to ensure the safety of the venue and use of equipment

Your role as a parent/carer

Always ensure that young people that you are responsible for have:

- ▼ The correct kit/equipment
- ▼ A suitable drink when required
- ▼ Clothing appropriate to the weather and sunscreen if needed
- ▼ Medication if required.

If in doubt contact the club for specific requirements.

Always ensure that you:

- ▼ Ask the appropriate questions to ensure that activities are safe and child friendly
- ▼ Are aware of and act in accordance with the club's code of conduct for parents/carers
- ▼ Inform the coach of any allergies and medical conditions / medication taken and remember to keep the coach up to date
- ▼ Inform the coach of any disabilities or special requirements that your child has
- ▼ Ensure that the club has your emergency contact details
- ▼ Drop off, and pick up your child at the correct times, as advised by the club
- ▼ Chat to your child about the activity to ensure that they are enjoying it
- ▼ Are aware of how and when to report a concern, allegation or disclosure about poor practice or possible abuse.

Always ensure that young people you are responsible for know and understand:

- ▼ The club's fair play charter and/or code of conduct for participants
- ▼ Who they can talk to if they have any concerns.

Please take the time to go through the club's participants' code of conduct or fair play charter with the young people you are responsible for.



Who can I contact if I have any concerns?

Sports clubs should have a designated child protection/welfare officer. They are the first point of contact if you have any concerns. If you would like more information, or have any concerns about any of the topics covered please contact the club's Child Protection Officer or contact the sport's national governing body Child Protection Officer. Details of national governing body child protection officers can be found at <https://thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice/deal-with-a-concern#contact-your-national-governing-body> or by contacting your County Sports Partnership. If you want to talk over any concerns with someone outside your club you can contact the Child Protection in Sport Unit, NSPCC or ChildLine.

Useful Contacts:

Child Protection in Sport Unit:
<https://thecpsu.org.uk/>
Tel: 0116 234 7278

NSPCC:
www.nspcc.org.uk email: help@nspcc.org.uk
Help and advice: 0800 800 5000

ChildLine
www.childline.org.uk
Childline: 0800 1111

For more information on sport within your county please contact your County Sports Partnership:

Derbyshire
www.derbyshiresport.co.uk Tel. 01773 748 907

Leicester-Shire & Rutland
www.lrsport.org Tel. 01509 564 888

Lincolnshire
www.lincolnshiresport.com Tel. 01522 730 325

Northamptonshire
www.northamptonshiresport.org Tel. 01604 366 976

Nottinghamshire
www.sportnottinghamshire.co.uk Tel. 0115 848 3469

Is Your Child Safe in Sport?

Safeguarding & Protecting Your Child in Sport

A Guide for parents & carers

Making sure that sport is fun, healthy and safe

Version 2: 2015

child protection



Help make sport safe!

Sport helps children to grow and develop, and can provide opportunities for enjoyment and achievement. Through sport children can develop valuable qualities such as leadership, confidence and self-esteem. Every child and young person has the right to have fun, be safe and free from harm whether training for a local team, playing for a local club or representing a sport and country at international level.

It is essential that parents/carers have a general awareness of good practice when selecting a sports activity for a young person to attend. This will ensure that they can enjoy sport within a safe and secure environment where they feel protected and empowered to make the most suitable choices. Providing children with positive sporting experiences means that they will be more likely to achieve their true potential.

It is the responsibility of everyone to ensure that sports activities are safe and FUN!!!

This leaflet is designed to provide parents/carers with information on good sports practice. Further information supporting this leaflet can be found on the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit's website www.thecpsu.org.uk

Questions for Parents/Carers to Consider

Are the coaches qualified?

- ▼ All coaches/leaders should hold an appropriate up to date recognised national governing body coaching qualification which is appropriate to the level and sport being coached
- ▼ In general an assistant coach should hold a level 1 qualification and should coach under the supervision of a more experienced and qualified coach
- ▼ A level 2 qualification is required for a coach to be coaching on their own. Check your national governing body guidelines.

Do they have appropriate training?

- ▼ It is recommended that coaches have attended nationally recognised child protection training within the last three years
- ▼ If coaches are working in schools it is recommended that they have an understanding of the National Curriculum.

Are coaches and club personnel suitable to work with children and young people?

All coaches and club personnel who have regular direct contact with children and young people should have been appropriately screened. This could include:

- ▼ The successful completion of an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
- ▼ Appropriate references taken.

A process should be in place for the safer recruitment of coaches and club personnel. This should be available on request.

Are the coaches insured?

- ▼ Coaches should have up to date, appropriate insurance cover.

What is the player/coach ratio?

The ratio of coaches to participants varies from sport to sport and should be based on:

- ▼ The age and ability of the children involved
- ▼ The risk involved in the activity
- ▼ Needs of young people with disabilities in the group.

Contact the sport's national governing body for sport specific guidance.

Who do I tell if my child takes medication?

Sports organisations/coaches need to be aware of any medication that your child is taking, or if they have any other particular needs. You should be asked when you first attend an activity, but if not inform the coach. This information will be treated confidentially.

What happens if my child is involved in away fixtures?

- ▼ The sports club/organisation should take responsibility to ensure the safety of your child whilst in their care
- ▼ The club should inform you about the fixture arrangements
- ▼ You should know how your child is getting to and from the fixture
- ▼ Prior to the fixture you should be provided with a parental consent form. You will need to complete this form and return it clearly stating emergency contact numbers and medical information.
- ▼ If required, any sunscreen should be applied by the parent/carer prior to the event or by the participant themselves.

Policies/Procedures to look for

National Governing Body Accreditation

The club should have, or be working towards national governing body accreditation, or equivalent, that outlines minimum operating systems of the sport. National governing body accreditation ensures that the club is committed to providing a safe, effective and child friendly environment.

Need to Know Policies and Procedures:

It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that the relevant policies are in place and communicated. It is the responsibility of the coach/leader to be aware of and follow the relevant policies and procedures.

Child protection policy

- ▼ The club should have a child protection policy which outlines procedures for dealing with possible abuse, disclosures or poor practice
- ▼ The club has a responsibility to act on any instance of abuse, disclosure or poor practice
- ▼ Parents/carers should be aware of the policy and be able to view it at any time
- ▼ Parents/carers should have a clear understanding of who the Child Protection/Welfare Officer is for the club
- ▼ Coaches/leaders should be aware of and follow the relevant child protection/welfare policy.

This should include:

- ▼ When and how to report a concern, allegation, disclosure about poor practice or possible abuse
- ▼ Who to contact should a child welfare incident arise
- ▼ Remember it is not the responsibility of a coach/leader to decide if a child is being abused but to act on any concerns they may have.

Code of Ethics and Behaviour for Coaches

Coaches/leaders should be aware of and follow the relevant code of ethics and behaviour. As role models, high standards of behaviour and appearance must be consistently maintained.

Photographic /Video Permission

- ▼ Consent should always be obtained from the parents/carers and child prior to any photographs or videos being taken of children
- ▼ Parents/carers/children can refuse photographic or video permission.

Social Media

The club should have a clear social media policy within their child protection policy.

Insurance

The club should have relevant insurance in place which includes public liability insurance.

Health & safety

- ▼ Clubs have a duty of care to take such measures, as are reasonable in the circumstances, to ensure that individuals will be safe to participate in an activity
- ▼ The club should issue a consent form for all new members which requests details of emergency contacts, medical history and consent for your child to be photographed or videoed.