Safeguarding & Child Protection – Your role as a parent/carer

Parents play an essential part in encouraging and supporting their child's participation in their chosen sport. The following information should help parents/carers understand their role.

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

* The correct kit/equipment
* A suitable drink when required
* Sun cream if needed
* Medication if required
* If in doubt contact the club/organisation 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/organisations code of conduct for parents/carers
* Inform the coach of medical conditions/medication taken. (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/organisation has emergency contact details
* Drop off, and pick up your child at the correct times, as advised by the club/ organisation
* Talk 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 the young people you are responsible for know and understand:

* The club/organisations fair play charter and/or code of conduct for participants
* Who they can talk to if they have any concerns?

Questions for Parents & Carers to Consider when selecting a sports session for a young person

**Are the coaches qualified?**

All coaches and leaders must hold an up to date and recognised national governing body coaching qualification. This has to be appropriate to the level and sport being coached. It is generally understood that an assistant coach must 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.

**Does the coach have appropriate training?**   
It is recommended that coaches have attended recognised safeguarding and protecting children training and this should be recognised by the appropriate NGB, Sports Coach UK or Local Safeguarding Children's Board. If coaches are working in schools, it is recommended that they have attended education awareness training.

**Are coaches / club officials suitable to work with children & young people?**   
All coaches and club officials who have direct contact with children and young people should have been appropriately recruited and screened. This can often include them having undergone an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check (if their role determines this is appropriate). Clubs are also advised to take references when recruiting coaches & volunteers.

**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 (a) the age of the young people (b) the ability of the participants (c) the risk involved in the activity (d) Are there any additional needs of young people in the group with a disability. To get your sports suggested coach/player ratios please contact the National Governing Body directly.

**Who do I tell if my child takes medication?**   
Sports organisations and 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 and coach officials.

**What happens if my child is involved in away fixtures?**   
The club will take responsibility to ensure the safety of your child whist in their care. The sports club should inform you about the fixture or event arrangements. You should also be aware of how your child is getting to and from the fixture/event. Prior to the fixture you should be provided with a club parental consent form for you to complete and return, clearly stating all emergency contact telephone numbers and any medical information needed.

Policies/Procedures to look for:

**National Governing Body Accreditation**

The sports club/organisation should have or be working towards NGB accreditation This outlines the minimum operating systems of that sport. Accreditation ensures that the club is committed to providing a safe, effective & child friendly environment.

**Child Protection Policy**  
Clubs should have a child protection policy in place which clearly outlines procedures for dealing with possible abuse, disclosures or poor practice. The club has a responsibility to act on any instances of abuse, disclosure or poor practice. Parents/carers should be aware of the policy and be able to view the policy on request, it would normally be found on the organisation’s website.

**Code of conduct**  
Clubs/organisations should have a written code of conduct for parents/carers, coaches, club staff/volunteers and participants.

**Insurance**  
The club/organisation should have public liability insurance in place.

**Health & safety**  
The premises/venue should satisfy fire regulations. The club/organisation should issue a consent form for all new members requesting details of emergency contacts, medical history and consent for your child to be photographed or videoed.

**The club/organisation should always have:** Somebody on site who holds a first aid qualification, access to a first aid box and telephone. Guidelines for dealing with injuries. Mechanisms in place to ensure the safety of the venue and equipment.