

STEW MEL LIONS

SAFETY GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Sports organisations have a *duty of care* towards all children involved in activities. These good practice guidelines help people take a common sense approach, setting out how staff/volunteers can keep children safe whilst ensuring best practice.

These guidelines provide practical guidance for those working and/or volunteering directly with children on practices to keep children safe and to promote a safe operating environment for the member of staff/volunteer. These guidelines compliment and should be read in conjunction with the Code of Conduct for Safeguarding Children in Rugby.

Children under the age of 16 years should not be placed in positions of sole responsibility in relation to other children. These guidelines apply to all children and young people under the age of 18 years. Common sense should be applied when considering the circumstances of older children and all children should have the opportunity to express their views on matters which affect them, should they wish to do so.

The following guidelines are therefore based on generally recognised good practice and common sense. Ultimately, most practical situations will require a judgment to be made about what is practicable and reasonable in the circumstances.

ADULT TO CHILD RATIOS

The following ratios are recommended when delivering rugby practical activities

Age: 3 and over	1:8
If all children are over 8	1:10

As a general guide, the following factors will also be taken into consideration in deciding how many adults are required to safely supervise children:

- The number of children involved in the activity.
- The age, maturity and experience of the children.
- Whether any of the group leaders or children has a learning or physical disability or special requirements.
- Whether any of the children have challenging behaviour.
- The particular hazards associated with the activity.
- The particular hazards associated with the environment.
- The level of qualification and experience of the leaders.
- The programme of activities.

There may be other considerations which are specific to the environment in which the training/match is taking place, such as overnight stays and trips abroad.

PHYSICAL CONTACT

All forms of physical contact should respect and be sensitive to the needs and wishes of the child and should take place in a culture of dignity and respect for all children. Children should be encouraged to express their views on physical contact.

In the first instance, coaching techniques should be delivered by demonstration (either by the coach or an athlete who can display the technique being taught). Educational instruction should be clearly explained with a description of how it is proposed to handle or have contact with the child before doing so. This should be accompanied by asking if the child is comfortable. Manual support should be provided openly and must always be proportionate to the circumstances.

Rugby is a contact sport and the Are You Ready to Play Rugby policies, including Rugby Ready courses, age-band regulations and age-grade law variations, aim to reduce mismatches in physical maturity and thereby reduce the incidence of injury. In general, large mismatches in ability and physical stature should be avoided and common sense exercised when supervising matches and training. Adults and children should not take part in contact training or matches together, even for the purposes of demonstration. Adults should not hold contact shields or pads for young players during training drills.

Do not take on the responsibility for tasks for which you are not appropriately trained e.g. coaching contact rugby techniques, or providing manual assistance for a child with a physical disability.

FIRST AID AND THE TREATMENT OF INJURIES

All staff/volunteers must ensure:

- Where practicable all parents/carers of children under the age of 16 have completed a registration form before their child participates in rugby.
- There is a responsible adult with access to a working telephone for the purpose of calling emergency services and who has access to the address and emergency access information for the venue.
- There is an accessible and well-resourced first aid kit at the venue.
- They are aware of any pre-existing medical conditions, medicines being taken by participants or existing injuries and treatment required.
- A **Serious Injury Report Form** is completed if a child sustains a significant injury along with the details of any treatment given. Common sense should be applied when determining which injuries are significant.
- Where possible, access to medical advice and/or assistance is available.
- A child's parents/carers are informed of any injury and action taken as soon as possible.
- The circumstances in which any accidents occur are reviewed to avoid future repetitions.

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