



# SAFEGUARDING ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS When choosing a sports / Activity Provider



## PARENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As parents we all want to ensure our children are safeguarded when accessing services this includes extra circular activities.

It's your right as a parent or carer to be able to check how well a sport/activity provider operates – for the sake of your child's safety and your peace of mind Sports England provide guidance on the key points you should consider when choosing a sports club, coached session or activity.

## ASSESSING A CLUB OR ACTIVITY PROVIDER

Even if a club is accredited, you should check that the organisation has:

- A safeguarding policy, with a clear procedure for dealing with concerns or risks of abuse. You should be advised how you can access the policy
- A named and contactable welfare officer responsible for the implementation of their safeguarding policy and dealing with issues relating to the protection of children, young people or adults in sport
- Procedures for dealing with complaints or concerns regarding poor practice, abuse or neglect
- Written standards of good practice, such as a code of conduct or behaviour
- A parental consent for participating in activities and using any media recordings including pictures and videos that may be used for publications or publicity. Parental consent for any medical treatment that a child may need to be given in an emergency. The form must be returned to the club or activity provider, so that parents/carers can be contacted should there be a need to do so and for the purpose of ensuring the activity provider is complying with health and safety guidelines.
- Safe recruitment procedures for those working with young people that include a clear job description, appropriate references, criminal records checks (e.g. DBS) for relevant posts and technical qualifications
- Access to appropriate safeguarding or child protection training for its staff and volunteers.



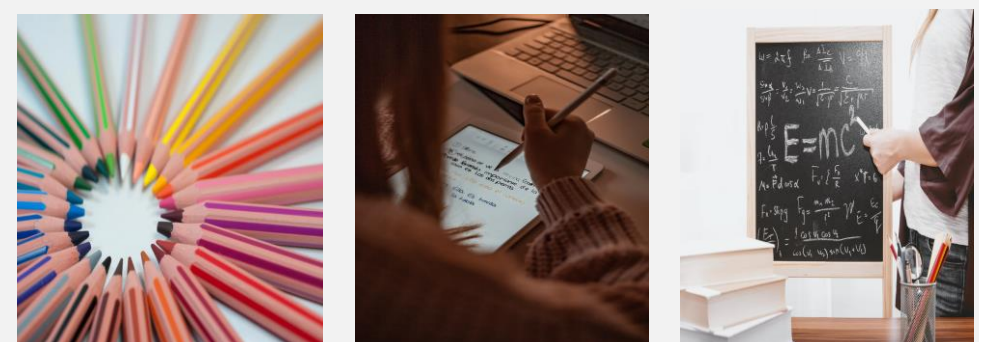
## ASSESSING A FREELANCE COACH OR INSTRUCTOR

If you're looking at engaging a coach or instructor who operates outside the structure of a club or activity provider, you should check that they have:

- A valid Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check certificate at an appropriate level which is relevant to their role. A DBS enhanced barred list check is required if coaching on a regular, intensive basis or unsupervised with children & young people.
- The relevant minimum qualifications for the role they're undertaking
- A valid registration or licence from their governing body to coach, teach or instruct
- A valid public liability insurance
- Undertaken safeguarding training such as UK Coaching's Safeguarding and Protecting Children workshop, the Local Safeguarding Children's Board's basic awareness training. Or sport-specific training in line with their national governing body's guidelines

Remember, a well-run club or activity provider will welcome questions about their activities and policies. They'll know they have a responsibility to give this kind of information to anyone who leaves a child in their care.

For further guidance please visit the DBS website regarding working in sports with children: DBS Checks in Sport –Working with Children guidance document. [www.dbs.gov.uk](http://www.dbs.gov.uk)



The information in this leaflet is from the Sports England Website. For more information and support visit the: 'What to look for in a sports club' section of the Child Protection in Sport Unit website: Read the Child Protection in Sport Unit's charter for parents: <https://thecpsu.org.uk/parents/information-for-parents/#welfareofficer>  
Visit: [www.voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk) & Safeguarding Children Board website: [www.harrowscb.co.uk](http://www.harrowscb.co.uk)