

Be part of it!



The Sport & Physical Activity Partnership



A guide for parents and carers



Help keep sport safe in Cumbria!
Safeguarding and protecting children in sport

Help Keep Sport Safe in Cumbria!

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 Units' website at www.thecpsu.org.uk or by contacting Active Cumbria.

Questions for Parents/Carers to Consider

Are the coaches qualified?

- All coaches/leaders must hold an up to date nationally recognised governing body coaching qualification/s which is appropriate to the level and sport being coached.
- In general 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.

Do they have appropriate training?

- It is recommended that coaches have attended nationally recognised safeguarding and protecting children in sport training. Training should be recognised by the appropriate National Governing Body, 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 personnel suitable to work with children and young people?

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

- The successful completion of an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check
- Appropriate references taken.

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 disabled young people in the group.

Contact the sports 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.

What happens if my child is involved in away fixtures?

- The club will take responsibility to ensure the safety of your child whilst in their care
- The sports club/organisation should inform you about the event arrangements
- You should know how your child is getting to and from the event
- 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.



Policies/Procedures to look for

National Governing Body Accreditation

The sports club/organisation 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 & child friendly environment. The sports club/organisation should be working to minimum operating standards outlined by their National Governing Body.

Child Protection Policy

- Club/organisations should have a child protection policy which outlines procedures for dealing with possible abuse, disclosures or poor practice
- The club/organisation have 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.

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.

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 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.



Who can I contact if I have any concerns?

All sports organisations should have a designated child protection or welfare officer, and they are the first point of contact if you have any concerns. You can also contact the relevant national governing body of sport child protection officer, details of which can be found at www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/applications/search/default.asp

If your concern is regarding someone working with young people, you may also contact the Cumbria Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), details can be found at www.cumbrialscb.com/pagesall.aspx?id=623

If you are concerned that a child may be being abused you should contact Cumbria Children's Services, there are offices based within each locality in Cumbria, and full details of these can be found at www.cumbrialscb.com/pagesall.aspx?id=457

Useful contacts

NSPCC

www.nspcc.org.uk

email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Safeguarding and Protecting Children helpline: 0808 800 5000

Child Protection in Sport Unit

www.thecpsu.org.uk

email: cpsu@nspcc.org.uk

Telephone number: 0116 234 7278

Childline

Telephone number: 0800 1111

For more information on sport within Cumbria please contact Active Cumbria

www.activecumbria.org

Telephone number: 01228 226885 (main reception) or

Richard Johnston 01228 221255 / 07973 811204



Active Cumbria

Children's Services | Cumbria County Council

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