

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN
VOLLEYBALL CLUBS
A GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CARERS



WHAT PARENTS SHOULD LOOK FOR WHEN CHOOSING A GOOD CLUB FOR THEIR CHILD.

Checklist for Parents

Has the club achieved a Volleyball Ireland Clubmark or local council accreditation that is up to date? If so, then this can be viewed as evidence that the club/organisation has attained a certain level of safe practices as assessed by the awarding body.

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

- A named and contactable Childrens Officer responsible for the implementation of their safeguarding policy and issues regarding the protection of children or young people
- Displayed the club Child Safety Statement based off a Risk Assessment.
- Procedures for dealing with complaints or concerns regarding poor practice, abuse or neglect
- Written standards of good practice (ie a code of conduct/behaviour)
- A parental consent/emergency details form that you must return to the club
- Safe recruitment procedures for those working with young people that include:
 - a clear job description,
 - appropriate references,
 - Garda Vetted and attended a Safeguarding 1 Course for relevant posts and
 - Coaching and other relevant qualifications
- Access to appropriate safeguarding (child protection) training for its staff/ volunteers

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

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Does the club have a Safeguarding Policy to help protect your child?

The club should have a safeguarding policy, with a clear procedure for dealing with poor practice concerns or risks of abuse. You should be advised how you can access the policy.

If you or your child has any worries, who can you talk to?

Every club should have a named Childrens officer and promote their contact details. Well-run clubs should be prepared to listen and advise you what to do if you have any concerns. They should have information about local or national services that can also offer advice and support.

Does the club have a written Code of Behaviour or code of Conduct?

There should be a written code of behaviour (or conduct) showing what is required of volunteers and participants (including children). Avoid clubs that do not have a commitment to address bullying, shouting, racism, sexism or any other kind of oppressive behaviour. Any unacceptable behaviour should be challenged and dealt with in a professional manner by the club.

What boundaries exist concerning club relationships?

The club should have clear guidelines about appropriate relationships and social activities between volunteers, participating young people, and parents. Find out who in the club you can speak to if you have concerns about boundaries not being observed.

What is recommended ratio of supervising adults to children?

Find out what the recommended supervision ratios are for your child's chosen activity. You can do this by contacting the club responsible for the sport or activity. It is important to identify that the organisation ensures that no volunteer members are left alone and isolated when in charge of the young people.

Does the club ask for signed parent's consent and emergency details?

As part of your child's registration, are you asked to complete a consent form? This should ask for emergency contacts, key medical information (allergies, asthma, etc.) and whether there are any other issues the club needs to know about in order to help your child get the most out of their participation.

What about arrangements for away fixtures and other events?

The club should inform you about the event arrangements and planning, including transport to and from the venue. You should also be given information about the venue itself. If it's a long way from home, you should be given a contact number for use in emergencies.

RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

Have all volunteers been selected through a proper recruitment process?

This should include interviews, references and Garda Vetting.

What safeguarding training do the volunteers have?

All volunteers should have up-to-date recognised safeguarding training.

Safeguarding 1 – for any volunteers including coaches, referees, supervisors who have contact with juniors.

Safeguarding 2 - For the Club Children's Officer

Safeguarding 3 – For the Designated Liaison Person

Is the coach qualified?

Your child's coach should have a recognised qualification to clarify they are qualified and have the technical competence in the sport/activity at the right level.

Health & Safety

Make sure that the club has guidance on first aid (and ideally a qualified first aider), and that the following are available within the club:

- first aid box and procedure for reporting and responding to injuries or accidents that occur within club time
- arrangements for providing participants with drinks and dissemination of medications (parental consent will be required for dissemination of medication)
- that the premises satisfy fire and other relevant regulations

If your child needs help with using the toilet, changing, feeding or their medication, discuss and agree how these personal care needs will be addressed.

The Club Children's Officer is,

Name:.....

Contact:.....

The Club Children's Officer is,

Name:.....

Contact:.....

The Club Designated Liaison Person is,

Name:.....

Contact:.....

The National Children's Officer is,

Name:.....

Contact:.....