



www.volleyballengland.org

Volleyball England

Welfare Guidance



Coaches

Introduction

Volleyball helps children grow and develop, and can provide opportunities for enjoyment and achievement. Through volleyball 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 or club or representing volleyball and country at international level.

It is essential that volleyball coaches adopt good practice when dealing with children and ensure that their safety is paramount. 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 Volleyball Activities are safe and fun!

<p>Policies & Procedures to be aware of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection Policy • Coaches code of conduct • Health & Safety • Equity Policy • Recruitment & Screening • Photographing & Videoing
<p>Qualifications & Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have appropriate up to date qualifications? • Do you have appropriate up to date training? • Do you have insurance cover? • Are you registered? • Do you have a CRB certificate?
<p>Coach delivery checklist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you know your participants? • Is the environment safe? • Is the equipment safe? • Are you working in the recommended player:coach ratio? • Are activities appropriate? • Do you know what to do in case of an accident, allegation, disclosure?

Who do I contact if I have any concerns?

Clubs should have a designated child protection or welfare officer, they are the first point of contact if you have any concerns.

Volleyball England has also developed an extensive welfare section on its website with lots of useful information and further contacts.

If you would like to talk to someone outside of your organisation you can also contact one of the following bodies:

Child Protection in Sport Unit	www.thecpsu.org.uk
NSPCC	www.nspcc.org.uk
Every Child Matters	www.everychildmatters.gov.uk
CHILDREN 1 ST	www.children1st.org.uk

Need to know policies and procedures

It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that the relevant policies are in place and communicated. It is the responsibility of the coach to be aware of and follow the relevant policies and procedures.

Child Protection Policy

Coaches should be aware of and follow the Volleyball England Child Protection Policy this includes:

- How to report a concern, allegation or disclosure
- Who to contact should a child welfare incident arise

Remember it is **not** the responsibility of a coach to decide if a child is being abused but to **act** on any concerns you may have.

Coaches Code of Conduct

Coaches should be aware of and follow the Volleyball England coaches code of conduct. As role models high standards of behaviour and appearance must be consistently displayed.

Health & Safety

All coaches should be aware of, and follow the appropriate health & safety policy, this should include:

- [Risk Assessments](#)
- Participants consent [letter](#) and [form](#)
- [How to respond to an incident or accident](#)
- Who to contact should a health and safety concern arise

Equity Policy

The rights, dignity and worth of everyone should be respected and everyone should be treated equally within the context of volleyball. Coaches should be aware of, and work within their clubs equity policy.

Recruitment & Screening

All coaches who have direct contact with children and young people must be appropriately screened to establish suitability to work with this age group, this should include:

- The successful completion of an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check
- A minimum of 2 references are taken
- Qualifications are checked

Photography & Videoing

Photography

There is evidence that certain individuals will visit sporting events/activities to take inappropriate photographs or video footage of young and disabled sports people in vulnerable positions. All coaches should be vigilant about this possibility. Any concerns during an event should be reported to a designated child protection/ welfare officer or other responsible person. ([see page 8 of Volleyball England Child Protection Policy](#))

Videoing as a coaching aid

Video can be a legitimate coaching aid for club coaches and teachers. However, if it is used make sure that children and their parents/carers understand that it is part of the coaching programme. Make sure that the films are then stored safely.

Qualifications & Training

Do you have the appropriate, up to date qualifications?

All coaches must hold up to date Volleyball England Coaching qualifications appropriate to the level being coached.

Do you have the appropriate, up to date training?

All coaches should have attended Sports Coach UK Good Practice and Child Protection Workshop

If working within schools coaches should have Adults Other than Teachers (AOTTs) education awareness training.

Do you have valid insurance cover?

All coaches must have appropriate insurance cover. If you are registered with Volleyball England for the current season you will have insurance cover.

Coaching Delivery Checklist

Coaches must at all times place the well being and safety of the performer first, in doing so the following must be considered:

Do you know your participants?

As a coach it is important that you know details of participation which may effect their involvement in volleyball, this could include any medical information or special needs. Parents should be asked to complete a consent form where this information is provided along with emergency contact details.

Are you coaching in a safe environment, using safe equipment?

All coaches should undertake and document a [risk assessment](#), or ensure a risk assessment has been undertaken prior to the delivery of activities.

Are you working within the recommended player/coach ratio?

The ratio of coaches to participants does vary from club to club depending on the number of members. Volleyball England recommend a coach:player ratio of 1:12 (1:15 max). If the activity is mixed gender, male and female staff should be available.

Are your activities appropriate?

Coaches must ensure the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual.

It is recommended that all coaches plan sessions in advance identifying specific outcomes and appropriate activities in line with Volleyball England guidelines.

Do you know what to do in case of an incident, accident, allegation, disclosure?

Coaches should be aware of, and follow, the policies and procedures of Volleyball England through relevant reporting forms. These forms should be available at all activities.