



[www.volleyballengland.org](http://www.volleyballengland.org)

# **Volleyball England**

## **Welfare Guidance**

# **Parents**

## Introduction

Volleyball helps children to 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, 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 volleyball club for a young person to attend. This will ensure that they can enjoy volleyball 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 make sure that volleyball activities are safe and fun!

<p><a href="#">What to ensure</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask questions</li> <li>• Inform club of any medical requirements</li> <li>• Be Punctual</li> <li>• You are aware of club policies &amp; procedures</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Policies &amp; Procedures to look for</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volley 123 accreditation</li> <li>• Child protection policy</li> <li>• Codes of conduct</li> <li>• Insurance</li> <li>• Health &amp; Safety</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Questions to ask</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are coaches qualified, registered &amp; insured?</li> <li>• Are they appropriately trained?</li> <li>• Are coaches suitable to work with young people?</li> <li>• What is the player:coach ratio?</li> <li>• Who do I speak to if my child takes medication?</li> <li>• What happens if my child is involved with away fixtures?</li> </ul>

## Your Role as a Parent/Carer

### Always ensure that young people who you are responsible for have:

- Appropriate kit/equipment
- A suitable drink for when required
- Sun cream if needed
- Medication if required

### Always ensure that you:

- Ask the appropriate questions to make sure that the activities are safe and child friendly.
- Are aware of and act in accordance to the clubs code of conduct for parents/carers.
- Inform the coach of medication taken/medical conditions.
- Inform the coach of any disabilities or special requirements that your child has.
- Ensure that the club has up to date emergency contact details.
- Drop off or pick up your child at the correct times, as advised by the club.
- Chat to your child about the activity to make sure that they are enjoying it.
- Are aware of how and when to report a concern, allegation or disclosure about poor practice or possible abuse.

### Always ensure that young people who you are responsible for know and understand:

- The clubs code of conduct for participants and/or fair play charter.
- Who they can talk to if they have any concerns.

### Who can 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 (CPSU)  
Childline  
NSPCC

[www.thecpsu.org.uk](http://www.thecpsu.org.uk)  
[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)  
[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

## **Policies and procedures to ask about at your club**

### **Volleyball England Volley 123 Club Accreditation**

The volleyball club may have or be working towards Volley 1 accreditation that quality assures that clubs are adhering to nationally recognised minimum operating standards. The Volley 123 mark recognises that a club is committed to providing a safe, effective and child friendly environment and has addressed the following areas:



#### **Child Protection Policy**

- Clubs should have a child protection policy which outlines procedures for dealing with abuse, disclosures or poor practice. Volleyball England provide a child protection policy free of charges that all clubs can adopt.
- The club has a responsibility to act on any instances of abuse, disclosure or poor practice.
- Parents/carers should be made aware of the policy by the club and be able to view it on request.

#### **Codes of Conduct**

Clubs should have written codes of conduct for parents/carers, club staff/volunteers, and participants.

#### **Insurance**

The club should have public liability insurance. If the club is affiliated to Volleyball England this will be the case.

#### **Health & Safety**

- The premises should satisfy fire regulations.
- The club should issue a consent form that includes emergency contact details and medical declaration form and consent for your child to be photographed.
- There should be somebody on site of the club training sessions who holds a recognised first aid qualification (this could be a member of staff if it is a leisure centre) and a first aid kit should be available.
- The club should have guidelines for dealing with injuries and mechanisms in place to ensure the safety of the equipment and venue.

## Questions to consider

### Are coaches and club personnel suitable to work with children and young people?

All coaches and club personnel that work with children and young people should have been appropriately screened as a minimum. This should include:

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

### Are the coaches qualified/registered and insured?

All coaches should hold an up to date Volleyball England coaching qualification. Coaches should have up to date insurance cover. If a coach has registered with Volleyball England for that current season they will be covered by Volleyball England's insurance policy.

### Do they have appropriate training in child protection?

- It is recommended that coaches working with young people under the age of 18 have attended a nationally recognised child protection training course/workshop.
- Volleyball England recommends the Sports Coach UK workshop Safeguarding & Protecting Children in Sport; details of which can be found on the website [www.sportscoachuk.org](http://www.sportscoachuk.org).
- If coaches are working in schools it is recommended that they have attended education awareness training.

### What is the player coach ratio?

Volleyball England recommends a ratio of 1:12 (1:15) of coaches to participants.

### Who do I tell if my child takes medication?

The club should provide you with an [emergency contact and medical declaration form](#) to complete when you first take your child along. If this is not asked for then you should inform the coach.

### What happens if my child is involved in away fixtures?

- The club will take responsibility for your child whilst in their care.
- The volleyball club 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 should return this form clearly stating who to contact in an emergency and medical information. [For more information see the guidance for away fixtures document.](#)

## **Useful links for Parents**

Child Protection in Sport Unit

[www.thecpsu.org.uk](http://www.thecpsu.org.uk)

The National Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Children

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Criminal Records Bureau

[www.crb.gov.uk](http://www.crb.gov.uk)

Every Child Matters

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

CHILDREN 1ST

[www.children1st.org.uk](http://www.children1st.org.uk)