

Supervising Children in Bowls & Bowls- Related Activities

Introduction

This guidance is applicable to those responsible for developing and delivering Bowls and Bowls-Related Activities for children and young people. For the purposes of this guidance, children and young people mean anyone under the age of 18.

Appropriate supervision ratios are critical to ensure that the duty of care placed upon clubs and organisations to safeguard children and young people is fulfilled.

They need to form part of the planning and risk assessment for any activity in order to:

- Minimise any risks to participants
- Enhance the benefits children and young people take from the activity
- Help deliver the activity safely and appropriately
- Ensure there is enough adult support available
- Reassure parents/carers

Key Considerations

What makes someone suitable to supervise activities?

It is the responsibility of the club/organisation planning, commissioning, or providing the session or activity to ensure the suitability of those running it. This includes:

- Being appropriately qualified for their role and the activity
- Being subject to a safe recruitment process
- Having insurance appropriate to the activity
- Signing up to a Code of Conduct
- Understanding their responsibility to safeguard children and young people and ensure a safe, fun and positive environment.

What factors inform appropriate supervision levels?

Regardless of the recommended supervision ratios, for all activities and sessions, there should be a minimum of two adults present to ensure at least basic cover in the event of one adult becoming unavailable during the activity.

Whilst planning any activity or session, and regardless of any other assessments that may be required, a risk assessment should be undertaken that specifically informs decision making in respect of appropriate supervision levels.

Key considerations should include:

- Ages of children and young people participating
- Additional support needs of participants
- Competence and experience of volunteers/staff involved. (At least one should have a current and valid first aid qualification and have completed safeguarding training.)
- Competence and experience of participants.
- Nature of the activity.
- Types of equipment children may have access to
- Whether there needs to be appropriate ratios of male or female adults
- If the activity being delivered uses a drop-in model
- Ensuring that adults who do not meet the criteria for DBS checks are supervised at all times

Recommended Supervision Ratios

Age of child	Number of adults	Number of children
0-2	1	3
2-3	1	4
4-8	1	6
9-12	1	8
13-18	1	10

Toilet Supervision

If a group has boys and girls, there should be at least one male and one female supervising visits to the toilet.

In larger groups of children, encourage groups to take a comfort break together with one responsible adults, whilst the other adult remains to supervise the other group of children.