

Policy 11 Child safety

Maintaining Children's Safety – health, safety and security responsibilities by law, employers are responsible for making sure the workplace (play setting) and the equipment is in a safe condition that presents no risk to health. Employees and volunteer coaches have a parallel responsibility to co-operate with employers to take care of themselves and others.

The Health and Safety Act 1974 protects the health, safety and welfare of workers, children, parents and public. The recent Management of Health and Safety at Work Act 1992 has more specific regulations. It now includes the basic principals of managing risk through a mixture of assessment, training and balanced control measures.

Employers must:

- 1 Ensure the setting / equipment (handling, storage, transporting) is in a safe condition and presents no risk to health.
- 2 Provide adequate welfare facilities and a safe working environment to ensure staff and children are not exposed to Health and Safety risks.
- 3 Entrust tasks to staff taking into account their capabilities as regards health and safety.
- 4 Appoint people who are competent to carry out specific tasks.
- 5 Provide information, training and supervision.
- 6 Assess all risks to the health and safety of employees, visitors and children who may be affected by the activities and the use of their premises by others. Measures must be put in place to remove or adequately control these risks, e.g. children; and young people should not be left alone with people who share the premises.
- 7 Develop emergency procedures i.e. accident and fire.
- 8 Provide staff training to recognise hazards, assess the risk and implement the measures for their protection and the protection of others.
- 9 Monitor and review procedures and practice.

Employees must:

- 1 Co-operate with their employer and take care of themselves and others.
- 2 Not interfere with or misuse anything provided in the interests of health and safety.
- 3 Undertake appropriate health and safety training so that they are fully aware of the relevant issues, regulations and procedures for all play activities with which the children are involved, for example, fire safety, visits, moving and handling equipment etc. Undertake child protection training to ensure awareness of possible risks.

