

GUIDELINES FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Guidelines designed to keep children safe and protect sports officials and coaches from risk.

Maintain well-defined boundaries

Physical Boundaries

Drills to be used to develop fitness and not as a form of punishment

Physical contact to be used only to develop a specific skill set

Permission for physical contact must be always sought

Be in sight of other persons at all times

Avoid being alone with any particular child

General physical contact is permitted for:

- developing sporting techniques and skills

- sports massage

- injury treatment

- injury prevention

- other sporting requirements

Any physical assault, ill treatment or violence will be reported

Emotional boundaries

Give positive feedback and not negative about the child

Encourage and don't put down

Always maintain a professional relationship with the child

Friendship with the child must have the parent's approval

If a child approaches for a private talk, do it in an open area

Personnel should contact the child only with parents consent

Sexual Boundaries

Any form of sexual relationships with athletes is forbidden

Do not touch athletes in an inappropriate manner

Announce entry into changing rooms, and have at least one other adult in attendance

No inappropriate sexually explicit material in any format to be shown to children

Bullying

Bullying will not be accepted or tolerated

Bullying can include :

- unwanted physical contact, name calling, spreading rumours,

- teasing, emotional torment, ridicule or humiliation

- racial abuse

- sexual comments or suggestions

Includes any form of electronic bullying such as texting or email

Transport and Accommodation

Ideally all players/participants should have their own transport

Provision of transport will only be provided:

- Fully licensed driver

- Other players or persons in the vehicle

- Ride approved by child's parent or guardian

- Authorisation by parent can be given at the beginning of each season

Ride is directly to/from sports facility/accommodation

In mixed teams and girls team there must be at least one adult women in the group

Have a reasonable adult to child ration according to age and responsibilities

Adults should not share rooms with children that are not related

Parents to be totally informed of accommodation arrangements
Personnel and players should not share accommodations, regardless of the potential cost savings
If sharing a room is unavoidable, be sure that the “two deep” rule is observed at all times.
Players of different genders should not share accommodation

Billets

Players should not share a bedroom with anyone other than the hosting player, provided that the host is of the same gender.
No sexual contact will take place between visiting players and hosting players, the host family, or those who live with the host family.
Transportation to and from sporting events will be overseen by the host athlete/family.
Visiting players should not accept rides from anyone other than designated people.

Support for the Child Athlete

Operate within the rules and spirit of Table Tennis
Promote fair play and positive aspects of sports and physical activity
Respect each child's rights regardless of gender , ability, cultural background or religion
Display courtesy and good manners
Respect for each child's right to a safe, secure and well-supervised playing environment
Respect for each child's feeling and views
Develop a healthy working relationship with children based on mutual respect and trust
Recognise that each person has differences that make them special
Be role model with high standards of behaviour and appearance
Appreciate the efforts of all young people and do not over-train
Acknowledge each child's individual qualities, contributions and progress.

Resources from which Guidelines adapted from:

www.playbethe.rules.net.au

www.thecpsu.org.uk

www.dsr.nsw.gov.au

Sport Safe, British Columbia Coach's Guide

ITF coaching guidelines

IOC Sexual Harassment in Sport

Canada Hockey Prevention Guidelines

Sport England-Help Keeping Your Child Safe in Sports