

## SUPPORT & SUPERVISION GUIDANCE

Basketball Northern Ireland recognise that it is good practice to set up a system of support and supervision of staff/volunteers.

This will enable staff/volunteers to become more effective by identifying training needs and dealing quickly with difficulties. Volunteers will be offered regular opportunities to review their experiences at Basketball Northern Ireland and to identify any training or further support they require.

- Make sure there is an adequate adult: child ratio.
  - Leaders should have more than one adult present.
  - The number of adults required will depend on the nature of the activity, the age of the participants and any special needs of the group.
  - As a guide, a ratio of 1:8 for under 12 years of age and 1:10 for participants over 12 years of age.
- There should be a minimum of 2 people supervising any session that involves any underage players.
- Leaders of both genders will be required for mixed groups.
- Avoid being alone with one participant; if you need to talk separately do so in an open environment, in view of others.
- Leaders should not normally need to enter the changing rooms unless children are very young or need special assistance and, in this instance, parents could be asked to take responsibility for assisting in the changing room.
- Some form of supervision of changing rooms would be required to ensure that behaviour such as bullying is not taking place. However, this may be done indirectly – someone close to the changing room.
  - If supervision inside a changing room needs to be organised, this should be done in pairs of appropriate gender.
- Clearly state time for start and end of training sessions or competitions - leaders should not be left alone with young people at the end of sessions. If there are late collections leaders should remain in pairs until participants have left.
- Keep attendance records and record any incidents/injuries that arise
- Consider asking parents to stay and supervise sessions, (for safety and supervision – be clear about what you are asking them to do – to be another adult pair of eyes to ensure the safety of the children and not for their 'technical' expertise).

- Only children within same/ similar age bands will be selected for team playing/ coaching; unless:
  - When young players are invited into adult groups/squads, it is advisable to get agreement from a parent/carer. The group leader or senior coach should nominate one adult member of the group to take responsibility for the underage player. Where necessary two adult members, one of each gender, can be appointed.