



**BADMINTON**  
SCOTLAND

**SAFE IN CARE GUIDELINES**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 These guidelines provide practical guidance for those working and/or volunteering directly with children on practices to keep children safe and to promote a safe operating environment for the member of Staff, Volunteer, Coach or Official.
- 1.2 These guidelines compliment and should be read in conjunction with Badminton Scotland's Codes of Practice. Breaches of these guidelines may be dealt with under Badminton Scotland's Procedure for Responding to Concerns about a Child.
- 1.3 Badminton Scotland has a duty of care towards all children involved in activities. Children under the age of 16 years will not be placed in positions of sole responsibility in relation to other children. These guidelines apply to all children and young people under the age of 18 years.
- 1.4 Common sense will be applied when considering the circumstances of older children and all children will have the opportunity to express their views on matters which affect them, should they wish to do so. Ultimately, most practical situations will require a judgment to be made about what is practicable and reasonable in the circumstances.

## **2. Adult to Child Ratios**

- 2.1 All activities will be planned to involve at least two adults, preferably one male and one female. As a general guide, the following factors will also be taken into consideration in deciding how many adults are required to safely supervise children:
  - The number of children involved in the activity.
  - The age, maturity and experience of the children.
  - Whether any of the group leaders or children has a learning or physical disability or special requirements.
  - Whether any of the children has challenging behaviour.
  - The particular hazards associated with the activity.
  - The particular hazards associated with the environment.
  - The level of qualification and experience of the leaders.
  - The programme of activities.
- 2..2 There may be other considerations which are specific to badminton or the facility in which the sport takes place.

## **3. Physical Contact**

- 3.1 All forms of physical contact will respect and be sensitive to the needs and wishes of the child and will take place in a culture of dignity and respect for all children. Children will be encouraged to express their views on physical contact.
- 3.2 In the first instance, coaching techniques will be delivered by demonstration (either by the coach or an athlete who can display the technique being taught). Educational instruction will

be clearly explained with a description of how it is proposed to handle or have contact with the child before doing so. This will be accompanied by asking if the child is comfortable. Manual support will be provided openly and must always be proportionate to the circumstances.

- 3.3 If it is necessary to help a child with personal tasks e.g. toileting or changing, the child and parents/carers will be encouraged to express a preference regarding the support and will be encouraged to speak out about methods of support with which they are uncomfortable. Staff/volunteers will work with parents/carers and children to develop practised routines for personal care so that parents/carers and children know what to expect.
- 3.4 Do not take on the responsibility for tasks for which you are not appropriately trained e.g. manual assistance for a child with a physical disability.

#### **4. First Aid Treatment of Injuries**

4.1 All Staff, Volunteers, Coaches or Officials must ensure:

- Where practicable all parents/carers of children under the age of 16 have completed a Partnership with Parents/Carers Form before their child participates in badminton.
- There is an accessible and well-resourced first aid kit at the venue.
- They are aware of any pre-existing medical conditions, medicines being taken by participants or existing injuries and treatment required.
- Only those with a current, recognised First Aid qualification treat injuries. In more serious cases assistance will be obtained from a medically qualified professional as soon as possible.
- A Significant Incident Form is completed if a child sustains a significant injury along with the details of any treatment given. Common sense will be applied when determining which injuries are significant.
- Where possible, access to medical advice and/or assistance is available.
- A child's parents/carers are informed of any injury and action taken as soon as possible.
- The circumstances in which any accidents occur are reviewed to avoid future repetitions.

#### **5. Sexual Activity**

- 5.1 Within sport, as within other activities, sexual relationships do occur. It is important to address sexual activity both between children and young people and between adults and young people.
- 5.2 Sexual activity between children/young people involved in sport should be prohibited during team events, in sports facilities and social activities organised by Badminton Scotland. Inappropriate or criminal sexual behaviour committed by a young person will lead to disciplinary action in accordance with Badminton Scotland Disciplinary Procedure and reports being made to external agencies such as the police or social services.

- 5.3 Sexual interactions between adults and young people (16+) involved in sport raise serious issues given the power imbalance inherent in the relationship. Where a young person is of the age of consent the power of the adult over that young person may influence their ability to genuinely consent to sexual activity. A coach or other adult in a position of authority may have significant power or influence over a young person's career.
- 5.4 Sexual activity between adults and young people (16+) involved in the same sport should be prohibited when the adult is in a position of trust or authority (coach, trainer, official). Inappropriate or criminal sexual behaviour committed by an adult will lead to suspension and disciplinary action in accordance with Badminton Scotland Disciplinary Procedures, which in the case of criminal action must include contacting the police.
- 5.5 Sexual activity between adults and children under the age of 16 is a criminal act and immediate action must be taken to report it to the police.

## **6. Managing Challenging Behaviour**

6.1 Staff, Volunteers, Coaches or Officials delivering activities to children may, from time to time require to deal with a child's challenging behaviour. Badminton Scotland works to the following principles:

- The welfare of the child is the paramount consideration.
- A risk assessment will be completed for all activities which take into consideration the needs of all children involved in the activity.
- Children must never be subject to any form of treatment that is harmful, abusive, humiliating or degrading and will always be able to maintain their respect and dignity.
- No member of staff will attempt to respond to challenging behaviour by using techniques for which they have not been trained.

### 6.2 Planning Activities

6.2.1 Good coaching practice requires planning sessions around the group as a whole but also involves taking into consideration the needs of each individual athlete within that group. As part of a risk assessment, coaches will consider whether any members of the group have been challenging in the past or are likely to present any difficulties in relation to the tasks involved, the other participants or the environment.

6.2.2 Where Staff, Volunteers, Coaches or Officials identify any potential risks, strategies to manage those risks will be agreed in advance of the session, event or activity. The risk assessment will also identify the appropriate number of adults required to safely manage and support the session including being able to adequately respond to any challenging behaviour and to safeguard other members of the group and the staff/volunteers involved.

6.2.3 All those delivering activities to children will receive training on these guidelines and will be supported to address issues of challenging behaviour through regular supervision.

### 6.3 Agreeing Acceptable and Unacceptable Behaviours

6.3.1 Staff, Volunteers, Coaches, Officials, children and parents/carers will be involved in developing an agreed statement of what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. They will also agree upon the range of options which may be applied in response to unacceptable behaviour (e.g. dropped from the team for one game etc.). This can be done at the start of the season, in advance of a trip away from home or as part of a welcome session at a residential camp.

6.3.2 Issues of behaviour and control will regularly be discussed with Staff, Volunteers, Coaches, Officials, children and parents/carers in the context of rights and responsibilities. It is beneficial to ask children as a group to set out what behaviour they find acceptable and unacceptable within their group/team. It is also helpful to ask them what the consequences of breaking these rules will be. Experience shows that they will tend to come up with a sensible and working set of 'rules'. If and when such a list is compiled, every member of the group can be asked to sign it, as can new members as they join. It can then be beneficial to have a copy of the 'rules' visible for reference during the activity

### 6.4 Managing Challenging Behaviour

6.4.1 In dealing with children who display risk-taking or challenging behaviours, staff and volunteers might consider the following options:

- Time out - from the activity, group or individual work.
- Making up - the act or process of making amends.
- Payback - the act of giving something back.
- Behavioural reinforcement - rewards for good behaviour, consequences for negative behaviour.
- Calming the situation - talking through with the child.
- Increased supervision by staff/volunteers.
- Use of individual 'contracts' or agreements for their future or continued participation.
- Consequences e.g. missing an outing.

6.4.2 Adults and children shall never be permitted to use the any of the following as a means of managing a child's behaviour:

- Physical punishment or the threat of such.
- The withdrawal of communication with the child.
- Being deprived of food, water or access to changing facilities or toilets.
- Verbal intimidation, ridicule or humiliation.

6.4.3 Staff, Volunteers, Coaches or Officials will review the needs of any child on whom consequences are frequently imposed. This review will involve the child and parents/carers to ensure an informed decision is made about the child's future or continued participation in the group or activity. Whilst it would always be against the wishes of everyone involved in Badminton Scotland ultimately, if a child continues to present a high level of risk or danger to him or herself, or others, he or she may have to be barred from activity in the sport.

## 6.5 Physical Interventions

- 6.5.1 The use of physical interventions will always be avoided unless it is absolutely necessary in order to prevent a child injuring themselves, injuring others or causing serious damage to property. All forms of physical intervention shall form part of a broader approach to the management of challenging behaviour.
- 6.5.2 Physical contact to prevent something happening will always be the result of conscious decision-making and not a reaction. Before physically intervening, the member of staff or volunteer will ask themselves, 'Is this the only option in order to manage the situation and ensure safety?'
- 6.5.3 The following must always be considered:
- Contact will be avoided with buttocks, genitals and breasts. Staff, Volunteers, Coaches or Officials will never behave in a way which could be interpreted as sexual.
  - Any form of physical intervention will achieve an outcome that is in the best interests of the child whose behaviour is of immediate concern.
  - Staff, Volunteers, Coaches or Officials will consider the circumstances, the risks associated with employing physical intervention compared with the risks of not employing physical intervention.
  - The scale and nature of physical intervention must always be proportionate to the behaviour of the young person and the nature of harm/damage they might cause.
  - All forms of physical intervention will employ only a reasonable amount of force - the minimum force needed to avert injury to a person or serious damage to property – applied for the shortest period of time.
  - Staff, Volunteers, Coaches or Officials will never employ physical interventions which are deemed to present an unreasonable risk to children or staff/volunteers.
  - Staff, Volunteers, Coaches or Officials shall never use physical intervention as a form of punishment.
- 6.5.4 Any physical intervention used will be recorded as soon as possible after the incident by the Staff, Volunteers, Coaches or Officials involved using the **Significant Incident Form** and passed to the Child Welfare Protection Officer as soon as possible.
- 6.5.5 A timely debrief for Staff, Volunteers, Coaches or Officials, the child and parents/carers will always take place following an incident where physical intervention has been used. This will include ensuring that the physical and emotional well-being of those involved has been addressed and ongoing support offered where necessary. Staff, Volunteers, Coaches or Officials, children and parents/carers will be given an opportunity to talk about what happened in a calm and safe environment.
- 6.5.6 There will also be a discussion with the child and parents/carers about the child's needs and continued safe participation in the group or activity.

## **7. Transporting Children**

7.1 Where it is necessary to transport children, the following good practice is required:

7.1.1 Where parents/carers make arrangements for the transportation of children to and from the activity, out with the knowledge of Badminton Scotland it will be the responsibility of the parents/carers to satisfy themselves about the appropriateness and safety of the arrangements.

7.1.2 Where Badminton Scotland makes arrangements for the transportation of children the members of staff/volunteers involved will undertake a risk assessment of the transportation required. This will include an assessment of the following areas:

- Ensuring that all vehicles and drivers are correctly insured for the purpose.
- Ensuring the driver has a valid and appropriate licence for the vehicle being used.
- All reasonable safety measures are available e.g. fitted, working seatbelts, booster seats where appropriate.
- An appropriate ratio of adults per child.
- Ensuring drivers have adequate breaks.

7.1.3 When transporting children, wherever possible they will be in the back seat of the car for health and safety reasons.

7.1.4 Where practicable and planned, written parent/carer consent will be requested if staff/volunteers are required to transport children.

7.1.5 To safeguard the member of Staff, Volunteer, Coach or Official the following good practice is required:

- Agree a collection policy with parents/carers which will include a clear and shared understanding of arrangements for collection at the end of a session.
- Always tell another member of staff/volunteer that you are transporting a child, give details of the route and the anticipated length of the journey.
- Take all reasonable safety measures e.g. children in the back seat, seatbelts worn.
- Where possible, have another adult accompany you on the journey.
- Call ahead to inform the child's parents/carers that you are giving them a lift and inform them when you expect to arrive.

## **8. Collection by Parents/Carers**

8.1 On some occasions, parents/carers can be late when picking their child up at the end of a session. It is not the responsibility of Badminton Scotland to transport children home on behalf of parents/carers who have been delayed. It is therefore important for the guidelines below to be followed:

8.1.1 It is clear that while the club/session/training is running then leaders and coaches have a duty of care to the children that are in their charge. This is a principle of good practice and one, to which we all will sign up.



- 8.1.2 When the session has finished, obligations that we have under guidance, good practice and legislation still remain. We still have care and control of the child in the absence of a parent/carer or other responsible adult.
- 8.1.3 To help avoid this situation occurring in the first place. Badminton Scotland will take the following steps:
- Make sure that Badminton Scotland literature, application forms and consent forms are clear about starting and finishing times of sessions.
  - That they are clear about the expectations of parents/carers not to drop children off too early and collect children promptly when sessions finish.
  - Ask parents/carers whether they give consent for children to go home unaccompanied (according to their age and stage).
  - Have a late collection telephone contact and number on Partnership with Parents/Carers Form.
- 8.2 Where possible make sure that there is more than one adult/leader to lock up at the end of a session.
- 8.3 Discuss and rehearse with members of staff/volunteers how to deal with being left alone with a child. Put preventative measures in place (points 1 and 2) and draw up simple guidelines about how the situation will be dealt with if it arises. Although as a general rule we will not put ourselves in the position of being alone with a child there are exceptions and this situation is one of them. Remember the welfare of the child has to take precedence, so leaving children alone is not an option.
- 8.4 That you have access to a record of the child's address, contact telephone number and an alternative phone number e.g. of a grandparent or other responsible adult. You need this information to contact the adult responsible for the child and ask them to collect the child. If you are unable to contact anyone then you have to make a decision of whether to take the child home yourself (see point 8.5) or call the police (point 8.6)
- 8.5 If you are left alone with a child then transparency is the key. Keep a record of your actions (use the guidelines above in Transporting Children re; good practice to safeguard member of staff/volunteer) and make sure that you inform the Badminton Scotland Child Protection Officer and parents/carers as soon as possible.
- 8.6. When all else fails call the police.

## **9. Trips Away from Home**

- 9..1 Designate a Child Welfare Protection Officer for the trip.
- 9.1.1 Those in charge of the group will be responsible for the safety and well-being of children in their care. It is recommended that one of the group leaders co-ordinates the arrangements to safeguard the safety and welfare of children during the trip. The Child Welfare Protection Officer will ensure all practical arrangements have been addressed and act as the main contact for dealing with any concerns about the safety and welfare of children whilst away from home.

A detailed itinerary will be prepared and copies provided to the designated contact for Badminton Scotland and parents/carers.

## 9.2 Risk Assessment

9.2.1 Potential area of risk will be identified at the planning stage through a risk assessment, which will be recorded in writing. Safeguards will be put in place to manage the risks, where appropriate. Risk assessment will be an ongoing process throughout the trip as groups can often find themselves in unexpected situations despite the best laid plans.

## 9.3 Travel Arrangements

9.3.1 Organisers must ensure there is adequate and relevant insurance cover (including travel and medical insurance). If the trip involves travel abroad, organisers shall ensure they are aware of local procedures for dealing with concerns about the welfare of children and are familiar with the details of the emergency services in the location of the visit. Children will be informed of any local customs. (For more details see Guidelines on Transporting Children).

## 9.4 Adult to Child Ratios

9.4.1 All trips away will be planned to involve at least two adults, preferably one male and one female where possible. The guidelines on adult to child ratios above, will inform an assessment of the numbers of adults required to safely supervise the group. Those involved will be recruited and selected in accordance with the procedure for recruitment and selection of staff/volunteers in regulated work with children. Group leaders will be familiar with and agree to abide by Badminton Scotland Child Protection Policy, Procedures and Code of Conduct.

## 9.5 Accommodation

9.5.1 Organisers will find out as much as possible about the accommodation and the surroundings at the planning stage. Where possible, an initial visit to the venue/accommodation will take place to help those organising the trip identify all practical issues and allow time to address them in advance, in consultation with children and parents/carers where appropriate.

9.5.2 The following is a (non-exhaustive) list of some of the practical things which will be considered in advance about the arrangements for accommodation:

- Location: central and remote locations both present different challenges
- Accommodation facility: health & safety of building confirmed by owners/providers.
- Sleeping arrangements. These will enable suitable sharing in terms of age and gender and appropriately located staff/volunteer bedrooms for both supervision and ease of access in case of emergency. Parents/carers and children will be consulted in advance about arrangements for sharing where possible and appropriate.
- Appropriate safeguards where others have access to the sleeping quarters.
- Special access or adaptive aids required by group leaders or children.
- Environmental factors.
- Personal safety issues.

## 9.6 Exchange Visits/Hosting

- 9.6.1 Before departure, organisers will ensure there is a shared understanding of the standards expected during home stays between them, host organisation/families, parents/carers and children themselves. These standards will include arrangements for the supervision of children during the visit.
- 9.6.2 Host families will be appropriately vetted (adults will be PVG Scheme members) where possible or equivalent police checks undertaken and references thoroughly checked. Organisers, parents/carers and children will all be provided with a copy of emergency contact numbers.
- 9.6.3 Children will be aware of who they should talk to if problems arise during the visit. Daily contact will be made with all children to ensure they are safe and well.

## 9.7 Residential at a Facility/Centre

- 9.7.1 Organisers will ensure the facility is appropriately licensed and has adequate and relevant insurance cover in place. The facility will have a policy on the protection of children and Health and Safety. Adequate security arrangements will be in place and facility staff will have been appropriately vetted. Facility staff involved in the training or instruction of children must be appropriately qualified and trained.
- 9.7.2 Organisers will ensure there is adequate supervision of the group for the duration of the stay, particularly when the facility is being shared with other groups

## 9.8 Involving Parents/Carers

- 9.8.1 A meeting will be held with parents/carers before departure to share information about the trip, answer their questions and make joint decisions about arrangements where appropriate. A Code of Conduct shall be agreed with children and parents/carers in advance of the trip along with sanctions for unacceptable behaviour.
- 9.8.2 Parents/carers must complete a Partnership with Parents/Carers Form and provide emergency contact details.
- 9.8.3 In the event of an emergency at home during the trip, parents/carers will be encouraged to make contact with the group leaders in the first instance so that arrangements can be put in place to support the child on hearing any distressing news.

## 9.9 During the Trip

- 9.9.1 Organisers must ensure arrangements are in place for the supervision and risk assessment of activities during free time. Children shall not be allowed to wander alone in unfamiliar places.
- 9.9.2 Group leaders will have clear roles and responsibilities for the duration of the trip. They must not be over familiar with or fraternise with children during the trip and remember that they are in a position of trust at all times. The use of alcohol and/or drugs or engaging in sexual

relationships (between two young people) will not be condoned during the trip, even if the legislation relating to any of these behaviours is more lenient than in Scotland.

9.9.3 Group leaders will maintain an overview of the well-being of all children during the trip. This can help to identify issues at an early stage and resolve them as quickly as possible. Children can participate in this process by, for example, taking turns to complete a daily diary about the trip. This can be an overt or discreet way for them to communicate things (both positive and negative) that they want you to know.

9.10. After the Trip

9.10.1 Where appropriate, a de-brief will take place with all those involved in the trip, including children. This will provide an opportunity to reflect on what went well, not so well and what could have been done differently. Feedback will be used to inform future trips.

## **10. Communications Technology & Social Media**

10.1 Technology advances extremely quickly, meaning ways in which we communicate and receive and absorb information are changing all the time. This provides a great opportunity for organisations to promote their activities and communicate easily with members. But it can also put children and young people at considerable risk, which is why safeguards must be put in place.

- Where possible, try to ensure that no one is excluded, e.g. young people who may not have access to a mobile phone/internet etc.
- That written permission is sought from parents/carers for all children under 16 years.
- That the need for the technology is clearly identified and its use is specific.
- That it is Badminton Scotland who is communicating information – one-to-one interaction is strongly discouraged and safeguards will be in place and settings adjusted to prevent this happening.
- Children and young people will be briefed about the introduction of the technology. They will also be given information on how to keep themselves safe and who to report any concerns to Badminton Scotland.
- All concerns about the inappropriate use of technology will be dealt with in line with Badminton Scotland's Procedure for Responding to Concerns about a Child. This may include the concerns being reported to the police.

10.2 Further advice is available from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) (see useful contacts).

10.3 There are significant benefits for organisations using texts/emails and setting up social networking sites. Not only is it cheap, it's one of the most direct forms of communication with young people. However, there are risks. Adults who seek to harm children have been known to use messaging to "groom" children. This area is now specifically addressed by the Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005.

10.4 For children and young people, the safeguarding risks of these technologies include:

- Inappropriate access to, use or sharing of personal details (e.g. names, email addresses).
- Unwanted contact with children by adults with wrongful/questionable intent.
- Being sent offensive or otherwise inappropriate material.
- Online bullying by peers.
- Grooming for sexual abuse.
- Direct contact and abuse.

10.5 For adults, risks involved include:

- Their communication with children being misinterpreted.
- Potential investigation (internal or by statutory agencies).
- Potential disciplinary action.

10.6 Text/Email

10.6.1 Staff/volunteers must consider whether it is necessary to communicate with children via text and email. The general principle is that all communications with children will be open, transparent and appropriate.

10.6.2 Good practice includes agreeing with children and parents/carers what kind of information will be communicated directly to children by text message. This information will only be “need to know” information such as the last minute cancellation of a training session.

10.6.3 In the first instance parent/carer consent must be obtained for all children under 16 years. Contact will always be made at the phone number/email address the parent has provided on the child’s behalf. Parents/carers will be offered the option to be copied in to any messages their child will be sent. Although consent is not legally required for young people aged between 16 and 18 it is still recommended that parents are informed of the intention to send their children emails or texts. It is also good practice to obtain the consent of the 16 to 18-year olds

10.6.4 The following good practice is also required:

- All phone numbers/email addresses of children and young people will be recorded and kept securely in a locked cabinet or password-protected electronic file or database.
- The number of people with access to children and young people’s details will be kept to a practical minimum. A record will be kept of their numbers/addresses (preferably by Badminton Scotland Child Welfare Protection Officer).
- Messages will never contain any offensive, abusive or inappropriate language. They will not be open to misinterpretation.
- Badminton Scotland will be clear that messages will be sent only to communicate details of meeting points, training, match details, competition results etc. The same message will be sent to every member of the group/team. One-to-one messaging arrangements between coaches/volunteers and children will be strongly discouraged.

## 10.7 Internet

10.7.1 The internet brings with it an opportunity for organisations to extend their community profile, advertise and communicate easily with their members. Sometimes this is done via social networking sites such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Thought will be given to content, tone and how sites or social networking sites and pages will be monitored. In terms of publishing information and pictures the following good practice will be noted:

- Written parent/carer consent must be obtained for all children aged under 16 before publishing any information or pictures of a child. If the material is changed from the time of consent, the parents/carers must be informed and consent provided for the changes.
- Special care must be taken in relation to vulnerable children e.g. child fleeing domestic violence or a child with a disability, and consideration given to whether publication would place the child at risk.
- Young athletes who have a public profile as a result of their achievements are entitled to the same protection as all other children. In these cases, common sense is required when implementing these guidelines. All decisions will reflect the best interests of the child.

### 10.7.2 Use of Images and Information

- Information published on the websites/social networking sites must never include personal information that could identify a child e.g. home address, email address, telephone number of a child. All contact must be directed to Badminton Scotland. Credit for achievements by a child will be restricted to first names e.g. Tracey was Player of the Year 2002.
- Children must never be portrayed in a demeaning, tasteless or a provocative manner. Children will never be portrayed in a state of partial undress, other than when depicting an action shot within the context of the sport. Attire such as tracksuits or t-shirts may be more appropriate.
- Information about specific events or meetings e.g. coaching sessions must not be distributed to any individuals other than to those directly concerned.

10.7.3 Any concerns or enquiries about publications or the internet will be reported to Badminton Scotland Child Welfare Protection Officer.

## 10.8 Social Networking Sites

- Obtain written permission from parents/carers of under 16s to allow mutual interaction with the Badminton Scotland profile. Make parents/carers aware of the profile's existence, the site the child will be accessing and the restrictions of use for this preferred site.
- An official agreement will be in place which states that access to members' profiles are used only to pass on relevant information or to answer questions regarding Badminton Scotland or badminton issues. This agreement will also be incorporated into the Badminton Scotland Rules or Code of Conduct.
- Set up a Badminton Scotland profile rather than staff/volunteer profiles. This avoids access from members to individual's profiles.

- Keep the Badminton Scotland profile on “private” - allowing only members access to it (Badminton Scotland can monitor this and accept or decline requests to join).
- Informal online “chat” with members around subjects outside the badminton will be immediately discouraged. Private matters or questions will also be discouraged. However, any disclosures will be removed from the site and dealt with in line with Responding to Concerns about a Child/Concerns About the Conduct of a Member of Staff/Volunteer.

10.9 There has been an increase in the use and abuse of internet forums to target individuals or to engage contributors in debates which can cause upset and embarrassment to children and young people. Sites will be well monitored and any offending comments removed. A Coach, member of Staff or Volunteer will refrain from being drawn into any debates concerning selection, performance or personalities – even where the subject of the discussion is anonymous. This could be considered a breach of the code of conduct or poor practice.

#### 10.10 Mobile Phone Cameras/videos

10.10.1 There have already been a number of cases where children have been placed at risk as a result of the ability to discreetly record and transmit images through mobile phones. There is also scope for humiliation and embarrassment if films or images are shared on popular websites such as YouTube.

10.10.2 The use of mobile phones in this way can be very difficult to monitor. The Procedure for the use of Photographs, Film and Video will be observed in relation to the use of mobile phones as cameras/videos. Particular care is required in areas where personal privacy is important e.g. changing rooms, bathrooms and sleeping quarters. No photographs or video footage will ever be permitted in such areas of personal privacy.

### 11. The Use of Photographs, Film and Video

#### 11.1 Scope

11.1.1 Photos and video clips can be used to celebrate achievements, promote your activities and let people know that bit more about badminton. Footage is also recorded for performance development reasons. The aim of these guidelines is not to curb such activity but to ensure that children are protected from those who would seek to take or manipulate photos and video footage in a way that harms children or places them at risk of harm.

11.1.2 Badminton Scotland will take all reasonable steps to promote the safe use of photographing and filming at all events and activities with which it is associated. However, Badminton Scotland has no power to prevent individuals photographing or filming in public places.

#### 11.2 Notification

11.2.1 Badminton Scotland reserves the right at all times to prohibit the use of photography, film or video at any event or activity with which it is associated.

11.2.2 Parents/carers and children will be informed they may, from time to time, be photographed or filmed whilst participating in badminton. This could be for one of the following reasons:

- Video footage for performance development.
- Media coverage of an event or achievement.
- Promotional purposes e.g. website or publication.

11.2.3 Materials promoting events will state, where relevant, that photography and filming will take place.

11.2.4 Those who have sought and obtained permission to photograph or film will be formally identifiable e.g. a badge or sticker will be issued, after production of the letter of approval and identification (Request for Permission to Use Camera and Video Equipment and Notification to Applicant).

11.2.5 Information about what to do if concerned about photographing and filming will be available at all events.

11.2.6 Registration of intention to photograph will be required on the day. This enables tracking of the equipment and operator should concerns arise in the future.

### 11.3 Permission

11.3.1 Written consent must be obtained from the child's parents/carers before any photography or filming takes place.

11.3.2 Special care must be taken in relation to vulnerable children e.g. child fleeing domestic violence or a child with a disability, and consideration given to whether publication or use of the pictures/film would place the child at risk.

11.3.3 Young athletes who have a public profile as a result of their achievements are entitled to the same protection as all other children. In these cases, common sense is required when implementing these guidelines. All decisions will reflect the best interests of the child.

11.3.4 All actions by Badminton Scotland will be based on the best interests of the child.

### 11.4 Use of Images

11.4.1 No unsupervised access or one-to-one sessions will be allowed unless this has been explicitly agreed with the child and parents/carers.

11.4.2 No photographing or filming will be permitted in changing areas.

11.4.3 All images and accompanying information will comply with Badminton Scotland Safe in Care Guidelines, where this is within the control of Badminton Scotland.

11.4.4 Badminton Scotland will ensure that all negatives, copies of videos and digital photograph files are stored in a secure place. These will not be kept for any longer than is necessary having regard to the purposes for which they were taken.



11.4.5 Images will not be shared with external agencies unless express permission is obtained from the child and parents/carers.

## 11.5 Concerns

11.5.1 Anyone behaving in a way which could reasonably be viewed as inappropriate in relation to filming or photographing will be reported to the person in charge on the day. They will be approached for an explanation. If a satisfactory explanation is not provided, the circumstances will be reported to the person in charge on the day or Badminton Scotland Child Welfare Protection Officer.

11.5.2 Where appropriate concerns will also be reported to the police.

## 12. Changing Rooms

12.1 One of the areas where children are particularly vulnerable at many sports facilities is the locker/changing/shower room. Limited changing facilities sometimes mean that people of all ages regularly need to change and shower during the same period.

12.2 To avoid possible misunderstandings and embarrassing situations, adults need to exercise care when in the changing room at the same time as children. However, bullying can be an issue where children are left unsupervised in locker rooms, and a balance will be struck depending on the situation. In general, it is better if one adult is not alone to supervise in a locker room, and extra vigilance may also be required if there is public access to the venue. If, in an emergency, a male has to enter a female changing area, or vice versa, another adult of the opposite gender will accompany him or her.

12.3 The following advice is advised:

- Wherever possible, adults will avoid changing or showering at the same time as children.
- Parents/carers need to be aware that on occasions, adults and children may need to share a changing facility.
- It is recommended that particular attention is given to the supervision of children aged 10 and under in changing rooms. It is advisable for adults not to be alone with any such child under these circumstances.
- If children are uncomfortable changing or showering in public, no pressure will be placed on them to do so.
- While some organisations may be restricted to changing rooms for the purposes of team talks, if at all possible another area will be considered for this. If there are no other options, it is best practice to wait until all children are fully dressed.

## 13. Volunteers Under 18 Year Old

13.1 There is no legal barrier to anyone aged 18 or under becoming a coach or volunteer with children or young people. If their remit falls into that of regulated work as per the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 then they will be subject to the same recruitment

and selection procedures as other volunteers, including Scheme Record/Scheme Record Update (note that there is no lower age limit with regards to PVG Scheme Membership).

- 13.2 Anyone under 16 is defined as a child (under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, and it is not recommended that they take up regulated work with children.
- 13.3 They can, however, be encouraged to help out and will be supervised by a more senior qualified coach or volunteer who has been appropriately vetted. In turn, Badminton Scotland has a responsibility to support the supervising coach.
- 13.4 Remember that young coaches or volunteers may come under different pressures (e.g. lack of respect from peers, closeness in age could lead to possible relationship) so regular supervision, training and extra support is recommended.
- 13.5 It is important that adult to child ratios are reassessed as a young volunteer may not be experienced/capable of overseeing a group of children and young people.