


# Guidance on coach and adult supervision ratios

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# 01 INTRODUCTION

This guidance has been developed based on the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit guidance available here and should be followed as part of England Netball's minimum operating standards in order for members to benefit from England Netball's centrally arranged programme of insurance. Common sense should prevail so, depending on the nature of the event, trip, or training, it may be sensible to have more than the minimum ratios stated here

For **netball hosted at school, by school staff during school time**; the school's own ratios and policies should be adhered to instead of these guidelines. This essentially becomes normal curriculum activity in those circumstances.

# 02 COACHING RATIOS

England Netball's centrally arranged programme of insurance covers Personal Members with an England Netball Level 2 (or above) qualification to coach the following number of participants on a full-size netball court subject to a satisfactory risk assessment.

**Coaching Children and Young People**

The ratios for young people differ according to age groups (please see below). In all cases (note Bee Netball exception below) the netball activity should be led by at least one qualified England Netball Level 2 (or above) coach; however, a minimum of two responsible adults should be present to supervise the activity. Any roles that meet the definition of regulated activity also require a DBS check. Find out more about Regulated Activity here. Our "Safeguarding Children and Young People in Netball policy" can be found here.

| AGE GROUP | BEST PRACTICE RATIO |
|---|---|
| 12-17 years | 1:10 |
| 9-11 | 1:8* |
| 4-8 | 1:6* |
| Netball Youth Camps (regardless of age group) | 1:8 |

***NB – for Bee Netball (5-9 years), where a trained Bee Leader is present, a Level 2 coach is not necessary. Coaching Ratios** are: Buzzers (School Years 1 and 2) – 1:6; Fliers (Years 3 and 4) – 1:8

Parents should not be included in supervision ratios unless they are also club volunteers. If they are regular volunteers, they should comply with the DBS rules in the usual way: More information: England Netball | DBS

**Coaching Adults.**

The maximum ratio is one qualified coach to no more than 30 adult players (aged 18 years and over) (ratio 1:30). However, **best practice is a ratio of one coach to twelve adult players (1:12)**.

If a risk assessment concludes that more supervision and support is required to reduce exposure, then it should be sought before activity commences.

**Coaching Adults at risk**

The ratio for adults at risk varies according to need. In all cases the netball activity should be led by at least one qualified England Netball Level 2 (or above) coach*, however a minimum of two responsible adults should be present to supervise the activity. Where possible, any care needs, learning needs or SEN needs should form part of an agreed action plan. Any roles that meet the definition of regulated activity also require a DBS check. More on the DBS process here. Find out more about regulated activity here. Our "Safeguarding Adults in Netball policy" can be found here. ***NB* - A Walking Netball Host is able to facilitate a Walking Netball session (Level 2 not necessary)**

Based on the above, we recommend that in the case of vulnerable adults at risk, the standard adult ratios are adjusted to meet the needs of the participants. This adjustment should pass a satisfactory risk assessment.

**Mixed age groups**

It is recommended you have the lower ratio – for example, with a group of 9-13 year-olds a ratio of 1:8 should be implemented instead of 1:10. With a mixed group of adults and young people you should adhere to the relevant children and young people coaching ratios.

## 03 ADULT TO CHILD SUPERVISION RATIOS

The ratio of adults to *supervise* children is the same as for the *coaching* ratios in the table above.

**NB** for **Netball Youth Camps** England Netball policy is now that it should be minimum 1:8 adult to child ratio regardless of age group.

## 04 SUPERVISION RATIOS FOR ADULTS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

There are no hard and fast rules for supervising adults at risk (with care and support needs) but if supervising a mixed group of adults and children, or a group of adults with and without additional needs, consideration should be given to having more people to supervise and provide a safe environment.

## 05 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Also consider

- The need to accompany younger children to the toilet, though it is better to coordinate toilet breaks for everyone at the same time.
- If a participant is injured someone may need to be able to accompany them to hospital or other separate room. In this instance the required ratios need to be able to be maintained

When considering adult to child ratios, please remember that **we recommend no more than 30 participants train on one full size netball court at any given time**, **and a minimum of two responsible adults** should be present (including one qualified coach) and that all activity must pass a satisfactory risk assessment before the activity commences. If a risk assessment concludes that more supervision and support is required to reduce risk, then it should be sought before activity commences.

Travel and overnight stays add another layer of safety considerations as a driver cannot supervise children as well as drive.

## 06 A NOTE ON TRIALS

Trials take many formats but may feature a lot of children attending from a variety of clubs and areas, but are not likely to involve direct coaching or competing.

However**, it is incumbent on whoever is organizing the trial from the club, county or pathway to ensure there are sufficient adults in attendance to keep the children safe during the event**. A person should be nominated as the safeguarding contact in case of incident. Because it may be a one-off event, this person need not be a club or other safeguarding officer, nor have the mandatory training or a DBS checked. However, it would be good practice for them to have a basic awareness of safeguarding practice.

We recommend supervision ratios similar to those above wherever possible

The following related policies and guidance can be found here: England Netball | Safeguarding Policies and Guidance

- Day Trips
- Overnight and Foreign Trips
- Extreme weather
- Managing Challenging Behaviour
- Risk Assessment Checklist