

UK Coaching Chaperone Guidance - November 2016

In this document the term chaperone refers to a responsible adult who would support a 16/17 year old through participation in a UK Coaching Safeguarding and Protecting Children workshop.

In 2014 UK Coaching took the decision to discontinue the Safeguarding and Protecting Children 16-18 workshop as we felt young people will be best served by the Keeping Safe in Sport: Safeguarding for Young Volunteers 13+ workshop that has been specifically developed for participants who are considered children in the eyes of the law.

Despite Keeping Safe in Sport being our recommended workshop for all under 18s, UK Coaching are aware of the fact that many 16 and 17 olds do already have assistant coaching qualifications. As such, UK Coaching has retained our policy of allowing 16 and 17 year olds to undertake the Safeguarding and Protecting Children workshop, when and only when accompanied by an adult chaperone. **Please note – under 16s may not attend the Safeguarding and Protecting Children workshop.**

UK Coaching have taken guidance from the Child Protection in Sport Unit that 16 and 17 year olds may sometimes find some of the topics of discussion within the Safeguarding and Protecting Children Workshop challenging or upsetting. For this reason and because 16 and 17 year olds may simply sometimes need a little extra support, UK Coaching are committed to a chaperone policy.

To help tutors and workshop organisers understand the chaperone role we have produced some simple guidance:

- The chaperone should be a responsible adult and able to support the young person as required
- The chaperone should be known to the young person before the workshop takes place and someone they feel comfortable talking about sensitive subjects with
- The chaperone should not be a delegate already participating in the workshop as the chaperones purpose should be to support the young person
- Chaperones will not be certificated following an SPC workshop
- The chaperone must stay for the duration of the workshop, but how individual tutors use chaperones can be agreed with a young person on a case by case basis
- Chaperones are not required for the Keeping Safe in Sport workshop as this workshop is specifically designed for under 18s.

Additional information for tutors

UK Coaching do not wish to promote a single method for the use of chaperone's by tutors and young people in the workshop and are comfortable that our experienced tutors make judgments based on each individual circumstance. We recommend that tutors speak to the young person and the chaperone to agree an approach that will best meet the needs of that young person. Tutors are able to make a judgment to exclude the chaperone from proceedings if they do not feel that their presence is benefitting a young person.

The CPSU have advised that we cannot and should not vet a young person's choice of chaperone before a workshop, but this guidance above should help tutors decide whether a chaperone is suitable or not.

Should a concern be raised to the tutor by a young person, a workshop delegate or if you as a tutor have concerns over a participant's welfare, then tutors should follow the procedure laid out in the UK Coaching Disclosure policy for tutors.