

MANAGING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR

Staff/volunteers who deliver sports activities to children may, on occasions, be required to deal with a child's challenging behaviour.

Planning

Sessions should be planned around the group and take into consideration the needs of each child. Coaches should consider previous behaviour, assess likely behaviour and develop strategies to manage the risk associated with them.

In planning appropriate strategies staff/volunteers should:

- Assess additional risk associated with the child's behaviour
- Consider appropriate supervision ratios and whether numbers of adults should be increased
- Identify specialist expertise or support that may be needed from carers or outside agencies. This is particularly relevant where it is identified that a child may need a level of physical intervention to participate safely.

The following principles should be applied in all cases:

- The wellbeing of all children is the paramount consideration.
- Children must never be subject to any form of treatment that is harmful, abusive, humiliating or degrading and should always be able to maintain their respect and dignity.
- No one should attempt to respond to challenging behaviour by using techniques for which they have not been trained.

None of the following should be used as a means of managing a child's behaviour:

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

Physical Interventions

Physical interventions to control challenging behaviour should only be used as a last resort to prevent a child from injuring themselves or others, or of causing serious damage to property. **Only the minimum force needed to avert injury to a person or serious damage to property should be used and applied for the shortest period of time.**

Physical intervention must never be used as a form of punishment.

When an incident involving challenging behaviour occurs, and physical intervention has been deemed necessary, the relevant incident form should be completed as soon as possible and submitted to the club welfare officer. The parents/carers of the child or young person should be informed immediately.