

VOLUNTEERS AGED 17 OR UNDER

While some children under the age of 17 may be in 'regulated work' with children, they should not be placed in positions of sole responsibility for other children. They should be supervised by an adult who is an experienced and qualified coach, and who has been appropriately vetted for the role, and a member of the PVG scheme.

Volunteers aged 17 and under should be vetted and assessed for their suitability to work with children. There is no lower age limit for PVG membership. Safe recruitment principles apply and where the post meets the 'regulated work' criteria, at a minimum, membership of the PVG Scheme should be applied for.

Young volunteers may come under different pressures in a coaching environment, for example experiencing a lack of respect or even bullying from peers. Additionally, closeness in age with the athletes could lead to the development of friendships or romantic/sexual relationships. As such regular supervision, guidance (particularly related to social media), training, and additional support is recommended.

Supervision ratios should be reassessed frequently, as a young volunteer may not have the capacity or confidence to manage a large group of children and young people.