

Purley Sports Club - Policy for Coaches Assisting Children with Toileting in Shared Facilities

At Purley Sports Club, safeguarding is our top priority. This policy provides clear guidelines for coaches when assisting children with toileting during coaching sessions, particularly in a shared facility where there are no separate toilets for children. It has been developed in alignment with best practices recommended by Sport England and sports governing bodies.

This policy includes additional guidance for single coaches supervising group sessions to ensure safeguarding measures remain robust.

1. General Principles

- The safety, privacy, and dignity of children must always come first.
 - Coaches are expected to act in a way that upholds safeguarding principles and avoids situations where their actions could be misinterpreted.
 - Whenever possible, children should be encouraged to use toilet facilities independently, fostering autonomy and privacy.
-

2. Shared Toilet Facilities

- **Safety Checks:** Coaches should ensure shared toilet facilities are safe and appropriate for use by children before the session begins.
 - **Minimising Risk:** When children need to use shared toilet facilities, the coach should monitor the area from outside, ensuring their safety without infringing on their privacy.
 - **Prioritising Privacy:** Coaches must not enter shared toilet facilities unless it is absolutely necessary for safeguarding reasons, such as assisting a child in distress or responding to an emergency.
-

3. Assistance with Toileting Needs

- **Pre-Session Planning:** At the start of each session, coaches should remind children to use the toilet if needed to minimize disruptions during activities.
 - **Parental Consent:** Coaches should only assist a child with toileting if prior written consent has been provided by the parent or guardian.
 - **Two-Adult Rule (When Possible):** If assistance is required, it is preferable to have a second adult present to safeguard both the child and the coach. In sessions with single coaches, alternative safeguards (outlined below) must be followed.
 - **Respect for Privacy:** Any physical assistance must be minimal, appropriate, and child-led, ensuring the child's comfort and dignity at all times.
-

4. Procedures for Single Coaches in Group Coaching Sessions

In group sessions where only one coach is present, the following measures must be adhered to:

1. **Preparation:**
 - **Encourage Independence:** At the start of the session, children should be encouraged to use the toilet independently.
 - **Establish Rules:** Explain to the group that if anyone needs the toilet during the session, they must inform the coach.
2. **Supervision of the Group:**
 - **Location Safety:** When a child needs to use the toilet, the coach must ensure the remaining group is safely engaged in an activity that requires minimal supervision (e.g., drills or skills practice within a confined area).
 - **Maintaining Visual Contact:** The coach should position themselves where they can maintain visual contact with both the group and the child accessing the toilet, wherever possible.
3. **Accompanying a Child to the Toilet:**
 - **No Unnecessary Entry:** Coaches should accompany the child to the entrance of the facility but avoid entering unless absolutely necessary.
 - **Open Communication:** If a child requires assistance, the coach should inform the group briefly and ensure the session is paused or continued safely while they address the child's needs.
4. **Emergency Situations:**
 - **Immediate Prioritisation:** If an emergency arises, such as an accident or distress, the coach should prioritize the child's safety while ensuring the group is left in a safe and supervised state (e.g., within sight of other club staff or parents).
 - **Informing Parents:** Parents or guardians should be informed as soon as possible about any incidents.
5. **Recording the Incident:**
 - Any situation where a coach assists a child with toileting must be documented and reported to the Club Welfare Officer. This ensures transparency and accountability.

5. Communication with Parents/Guardians

- **Clarity and Consent:** Parents must be informed of the club's policy on toileting and provide written consent for any required assistance.
- **Discussion of Specific Needs:** If a child has particular toileting needs, parents must communicate this with the coach in advance to ensure suitable arrangements are in place.

6. Safeguarding and Incident Reporting

- **Transparency:** Coaches must act in a manner that ensures their actions are clearly understood by children, parents, and club staff.
 - **Reporting:** Any concerns, incidents, or safeguarding issues must be reported immediately to the Club Welfare Officer or relevant authority.
-

7. Breach of Policy

- **Consequences:** Breaches of this policy will result in an investigation and may lead to disciplinary action, including suspension or dismissal, depending on the severity.
 - **Investigation Process:** Any breach will be handled in line with the club's safeguarding and disciplinary procedures.
-

8. Safeguarding Contacts

- **Club Welfare Officer:** Ian Yull, 07748 946461, theyullfamily@btinternet.com
 - **Club Manager:** Ryan Whiteley, 0208 6600608, manager@purleysports.co.uk
-

This policy aims to balance the practical realities of coaching with the need to safeguard children and protect coaches. By following these guidelines, Purley Sports Club ensures the safety, dignity, and well-being of all participants while maintaining the highest standards of professional conduct.