

Safeguarding in Scouting



Physical contact games

Physical contact games relate to any activity where there is intentional body-to-body contact. This includes rugby, Martial Arts, British Bulldogs and certain types of gymnastics. It could also include activities where there is close body contact e.g. tobogganing, tandem cycling etc.

These types of activities can be supervised by staff with the correct training and risk assessments in place but staff should not take part themselves. You should also be mindful of ages and sizes of young people playing together to ensure that no young person could dominate or injure as a result of their comparative size. This is also true of non or limited contact sports e.g. football, basketball, hockey.

There are some activities which will include body to body contact between staff and young people in training and for safety e.g. Archery, rock climbing, canoeing. These activities should only be conducted by qualified staff and with more than one staff member present. Staff should explain to the young person beforehand why they need to touch them and gain their consent e.g.

“I need to check that your harness is safe. Is it ok for me to check the straps on your shoulders and hips?”, “I would like to help you to improve your aim. Are you comfortable for me to put my hands on your hands while you hold the bow and arrow?”