

COACH TO PARTICIPANT RATIO GUIDELINES



BRITISH
DODGEBALL

It is important to have an adequate level of supervision to ensure the safety of participants as well as good safeguarding practice.

Using the recommended minimum coach to participant ratios means coaches reduce the risk of injury to players and ensure adequate cover remains in case of an emergency.

Appropriately Qualified

It is essential that all people working or volunteering are appropriately recruited. Clubs should develop a safe recruitment process based on British Dodgeball guidance to include procedures such as checking documents to confirm the person's identity, obtaining references and conducting an interview if possible.

For all roles which are eligible, an enhanced criminal records check should be completed. This is required for roles which involve all of the following:

- Activity delivered to people aged under 18 years of age or to vulnerable adults;
- Activity delivered on an unsupervised basis;
- Activity undertaken regularly (more than three times per month)

It is essential that those working in a responsible position are appropriately experienced or mentored/supervised until they have gained experience. People in any role at a club which involves working/volunteering with young people or vulnerable adults should undertake regular safeguarding training to refresh and update their knowledge. Coaches must hold appropriate coaching qualifications and must be proactive in safeguarding by taking responsibility for familiarising themselves with any relevant guidance, policies or procedures.

A British Dodgeball Level 1 coaching qualification is recommended for coaches who supporting sessions. A British Dodgeball Level 2 coaching qualification is required for coaches who lead sessions. A British Dodgeball Level 3 coaching qualification is recommended for head coaches who lead sessions in addition to managing and developing other coaches. You can find more information on recruitment guidance in our Recruitment & Disclosure Policy on the [governance page](#) of our website.

Working Together

Good practice means at least one other adult in addition to the lead coach should be present at every session to supervise. The additional adults do not need to be qualified coaches as long as the ratio of coaches to players is met. Participants aged under 18 should not be included in staffing ratios even if they have coaching qualifications and are leading aspects of the session.

Recommended Coach to Participant Ratios

British Dodgeball recommends the following coach to participant ratios when delivering dodgeball-based activity:

- When working with groups of children aged 0 - 2 years of age, the recommended minimum coach to participant ratio is 1:3
- When working with groups of children aged 2 - 3 years of age, the recommended minimum coach to participant ratio is 1:4
- When working with groups of children aged 4 - 8 years of age, the recommended minimum coach to participant ratio is 1:6.
- When working with groups of children aged 9 - 12 years of age, the recommended minimum coach to participant ratio is 1:8.
- When working with groups of children aged 13 - 18 years of age, the recommended minimum coach to participant ratio is 1:10.
- When working with groups of adults, the recommended minimum coach to participant ratio is 1:24, however 1:12 is considered best practice.

[NSPCC Recommend Adult to Child Ratios](#)

Parents as Supervisors

Parents should be encouraged to accompany their children to activities, but they should not be included in supervision calculations unless they are members of the club and acting in a volunteering role or other capacity during the activity. In these circumstances, they should meet all appropriate requirements in terms of;

- appropriate background checks;
- clarity about their role and responsibilities;
- who has overall responsibility for the group;
- what is acceptable practice.

Working with Vulnerable Adults

The ratios for vulnerable adults varies according to need. In all cases, a minimum of two responsible adults should be present to supervise the activity, with one being qualified to coach. Where possible, any care needs, learning needs or SEN needs should form part of an agreed action plan. Any roles that meet the definition of regulated activity also require an enhanced criminal records check.

In the case of vulnerable adults, the standard adult ratios should be adjusted to meet the needs of the participants.

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