

GSC Ratios Policy

This guidance is for anybody with responsibility for planning or delivering activities for young people, both in and out of schools and establishing good practice guidelines.

It is important to ensure that, in planning and running activities, consideration is given to providing the appropriate staff/supervision ratio of adults to participants.

The benefits of having correct ratios include:

- Minimising any risks to participants
- Providing some protection for those responsible for providing, funding or commissioning the activity in the event of concerns or incidents arising
- Enhancing the benefits young people receive from the activity

Due to the number of potential variables, it is not possible to recommend a “one size fits all” ratio to cover all activities involving young people. A number of factors should also be considered for any staff attending and meet the requirements of:

- Being appropriately qualified for the role and activity
- Complying with minimum age requirements
- Completed a recruitment process, including criminal records checks
- Understanding their responsibility to safeguard children.

Whatever the recommended ratio of adults to participants is, the GSC takes on a general rule that a minimum of two adults should always be present at any session. This ensures at least basic cover in the event of something impacting on the availability e.g. in the event of a participant requiring the attention of an adult following an incident. This provides protection for both the staff and the participants.

In the planning of all activities, a risk assessment should be undertaken which progresses decision making about appropriate supervision ratios. Key factors should include:

- Ages of participants
- Additional supervision/support needs of some or all participants (medical, behavioural etc.)
- Competence/experience of participants for the specific activity
- Nature of the activity
- Nature of the venue

These agreements are put in place for not only the safety of the participants but also the GSC staff.

Primary Schools

PE Lessons

One teacher or teaching assistant to assist (or co-deliver) in any class which a GSC staff member is leading. Ratios are dictated by the school. The same support should be available for students that is deemed necessary in other curriculum time - i.e. one-to-one support etc.

Lunchtime & Afterschool Clubs

A maximum of 16 pupils to 1 GSC staff member. A named member of teaching staff to be available at an agreed nearby location (that can be called upon if needed for support). Each new cohort to be assessed for any potential additional support needed prior to the block of sessions starting. If another appropriate adult is designated to the session (and actively involved) the maximum number can extend to 24.

Secondary Schools

PE sessions to be delivered alongside teaching staff. Where there is independent delivery (lunchtime/afterschool clubs) ratios will be dictated by the relevant National Governing Body/Industry standards, along with an assessment of the needs of each cohort to determine any additional support.

On Your Marks Programme

The leader of each session should be qualified with the Level 2 Multi Skills qualification.

Pre School Free Play

The maximum participants per session is 20. 2 GSC staff members are to deliver with a ratio of 1:10 participants. Parents stay with their children throughout the session.

Fun and Fit Club

The maximum participants per session is 20. 3 GSC staff members are to deliver with a ratio of 1:7.

Multi Sports

The maximum participants per session is 40. 5 GSC staff members are to deliver with a ratio of 1:8.

Year 6 & Secondary

The maximum participants per session is 24. 2 GSC staff members are to deliver with a ratio of 1:12. This will be adjusted down depending on the activity. Where outside providers are used for a session, the ratios will be dictated by that National Governing Body/Industry standards.

Street Sports

The number of participants attending varies as they are open sessions so staff ratios need to be flexible. Sessions for 6-11 year olds have 4 members of staff with a 1:8 ratio. Sessions for 11-18 year olds have a minimum of 3 staff members with at 1:10 ratio. The attendance will be closely monitored so staff can be adjusted accordingly.

Festivals

Festivals are for 7 to 11year olds. There should be a 1:8 ratio for staff. These sessions are delivered by the individual sport with support from GSC staff. The sport's coaches will all need to be over 18. Helpers under 18 are allowed but cannot be included for ratios.