

# 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 with young people 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 DBS disclosure should be completed. This is required for roles which involve all of the following:

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

It is essential that those working with young people 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 should undertake regular safeguarding training to refresh and update their knowledge. Coaches working with young people 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 under 8 years of age, the recommended minimum coach to participant ratio is 1:8.
- When working with groups of children aged over 8 years of age, the recommended minimum coach to participant ratio is 1:12.

## 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.