

## Good Practise Guidelines

- Always working in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication with no secrets)
- Treating all children equally, and with respect and dignity
- Always putting the welfare of each child first, before winning or achieving goals
- Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with children (e.g. it is not appropriate for SLS GB representatives to have an intimate relationship with a child or to share a room with them)
- Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust which empowers children to share in the decision-making process
- Making the experience of Surf Life Saving fun and enjoyable; promoting fair play
- Ensuring that if any form of manual/physical support is required, it should be provided openly and according to guidelines. Care is needed, as it is difficult to maintain hand positions when the child is constantly moving. Children and their parents/carers should always be consulted and their agreement gained
- Keeping up to date with technical skills, qualifications and insurance in sport
- Involving parents/carers wherever possible. For example, encouraging them to take responsibility for their children in the changing rooms. If groups have to be supervised in the changing rooms, always ensure you work in pairs
- Ensuring that if mixed teams are taken away, a male and female adult should always accompany them. However, remember that same gender abuse can also occur
- Ensuring that at tournaments or residential events, adults should not enter children's rooms or invite children into their rooms
- Being an excellent role model – this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of children
- Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- Recognising the developmental needs and capacity of children – avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing them against their will
- Securing parental/carer consent in writing to act *in loco parentis*, if the need arises to administer emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment
- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given
- Requesting written parental/carer consent if SLS GB representatives are required to transport children in their cars

### **Practices to be avoided**

The following should be avoided except in emergencies:

If cases arise where these situations are unavoidable it should be with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge in the club or the child's parents/carer. For example, a child sustains an injury and needs to go to hospital, or a parent/carer fails to arrive to pick a child up at the end of a session:

- Avoid spending time alone with children away from others
- Avoid taking children alone in the car

### **Practices never to be sanctioned**

The following should never be sanctioned. You should never:

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- Share a room with a child
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun
- Reduce a child to tears as a form of control
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unrecorded or not acted upon
- Do things of a personal nature for children, that they can do for themselves
- Invite or allow children to stay with you at your home unsupervised
- Take children to your home, where they will be alone with you