



Chaperone Policy

January 2020

Chaperone

A **chaperone** is an adult who accompanies or supervises one or more young, unmarried men or women during social occasions, usually with the specific intent of preventing inappropriate social or sexual interactions or illegal behavior (e.g., underage drinking, illegal drug use or unruly behaviour). The chaperone is typically accountable to a third party, usually the parents of one of the accompanied young people.

Chaperones may be resisted and resented by the young people being supervised. The practice of one-on-one chaperones for social occasions has largely fallen out of use in Western society, though the term is often applied to parents and teachers who supervise school dances. In the sport context this would apply to a Team Manager who assumes the role of loco parentis on trips away from home.

The concept of a chaperone is also used in variation. For example, a chaperone might be an expert in a given activity who takes a group and accompanies them during outside activities to provide physical support, advice and emergency attention if necessary. Sometimes the term is applied to people who are essentially tour guides.

Child or Young Person

The Childrens Act 1989 defines a child as being a person under 18 years of age. It is this group who should be allocated a chaperone when not in the immediate care/custody/control of a Team Manager.

In loco parentis

In loco parentis is a legal doctrine describing a relationship similar to that of a parent to a child. It refers to an individual who assumes parental status and responsibilities for another individual, usually a young person, without formally adopting that person

Roles and Responsibilities

Chaperones should be allocated on a maximum of 5:1 basis. That is five young persons to one adult chaperone with appropriate gender equity. Where the group is of mixed sexes then there should be two chaperones (male and female).

Chaperones are fully responsible for the whereabouts and actions of those in their care. It is recommended that the chaperone establishes personal rules and expectations to ensure complete safety and cooperation.

Both the chaperone and the young person must be aware and abide by the Code of Conduct.

Any illicit or unlawful behaviour will not be tolerated and must be brought to the attention of the appropriate Team Manager as soon as is practically possible.

Requirements of the position

Must have attained the age of 18 years.

Hold a current enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service disclosure certificate obtained with UK Athletics as the Registered Body.

Behaviour and Personal conduct must at all times be of a high standard and reflect favourably on the sport. Language in public or relevant group situations must always be appropriate and socially acceptable.

Before taking any child or young person for whom they are acting as chaperone from the team environment they must liaise with the Team Manager to ensure the excursion is appropriate and is officially sanctioned.

Have a viable means of communication with team officials in the event of an emergency.

Ensure that parental consent forms and emergency medical release forms have been completed for each youth they are responsible for.