

Missing children and young people at sports events

Example procedure and flow chart

Notes: The terms 'child' and 'young person' describe any person under the age of 18.

Procedure

If a child goes missing during an event, the club or organisation will apply the following procedure:

- ensure that all other children continue to be supervised appropriately while a search for the child concerned is carried out
- organise the remaining available responsible adults to conduct a search of the surrounding area allocating each individual to a specific area. Request all those searching report back within a short time, dependent on the size of the area being searched
- if the child cannot be found after a good search of the immediate surroundings, contact the child's parents to advise them of the concern and reassure them that everything is being done to locate the child
- make a note of the circumstances in which the child has gone missing and where they were last seen and prepare a detailed physical description of the child, to include their hair and eye colour, approximate height and build and clothing they were wearing, as this will be required by the police. If photographs of the child have been taken at the event, these could also be useful to the police
- report the concern to the police if the search is unsuccessful and no later than 20 minutes after the initial missing person report if the search is ongoing
- follow police guidance if further action is recommended and maintain close contact with the police
- report the incident to the designated safeguarding officer of the club or organisation
- ensure that you inform all adults involved including the parents, searchers and police if at any stage the child is located

**In an emergency,
where a young person is at immediate risk of harm,
call 999.**

Flowchart

