

Safeguarding Requirements for coaching juniors



These unified British guidelines provide a consistent framework for coaches operating at a GB level or across home-nation borders. This guidance only applies to coaches involved in the coaching of juniors (under the age of 18 years old).

START HERE



Are you coaching juniors (under 18)?

NO



This guidance does not apply.

YES

1 UNIFIED COACHING ROLES



- Lead Coach
- Assistant Coach
- Young Coach

For safeguarding and vetting purposes, Lead Coaches, Assistant Coaches (including Young Coaches) follow the same safeguarding standards—whether licensed or working towards that status.

Same high standard of protection for all children.

2 VETTING CHECKS & DISCLOSURE



Primary Vetting: You must hold valid background checks from your home nation: DBS (England/Wales), PVG (Scotland), or Access NI (Northern Ireland).



Mandatory Self-Declaration Form: All coaches holding a DBS (current, and new applications) must also complete and return a Self-Declaration Form to British Orienteering.



Coaching in Scotland: Coaches from England, Wales, or Northern Ireland and coaching in a regulated role in Scotland, generally require PVG membership due to Scottish legal requirements.



Important: A PVG obtained for a Scottish trip is not a substitute for your mandatory home-nation vetting (e.g., DBS/Access NI), it is an additional requirement to your primary home nation check.

3 SAFEGUARDING TRAINING STANDARDS



Unified Baseline (eLearning): The “Introducing Safeguarding” eLearning serves as the unified baseline for all British Orienteering members. It is designed to ensure every coach across the UK has the same foundational understanding of the sport’s core policies.



Face-to-Face/Virtual Training: Initial training (such as UK Coaching, CWPS or Sport NI) is considered interchangeable and equivalent across the home nations.



The “Majority of Coaching” Rule: Coaches should take the safeguarding training specific to the nation where they do most of their coaching. This ensures they are familiar with the local referral pathways and procedures they are most likely to use in practice.



Renewal: Safeguarding training must be renewed every three years.

4 PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Scottish Specifics: If you are unsure about the specific PVG requirements for a one-off event, you should check with the Scottish Orienteering Association (SOA).



Finding Courses: If Child Wellbeing and Protection in Sport (CWPS) courses are not listed by Scottish Orienteering, coaches can sign up via other sports governing bodies (the training is not sport specific).



All coaches must be registered members of British Orienteering and agree to the Code of Conduct at all times.

5 ONGOING REQUIREMENTS



British Orienteering Membership
All coaches must be registered members of British Orienteering.



Code of Conduct
All coaches must agree to and adhere to the Code of Conduct at all times.



By following these unified standards, we create a safe, inclusive and consistent environment for all children in orienteering across Great Britain and Northern Ireland.