

Areas for specific consideration in the sport of athletics

To protect yourself from any potential Issues, volunteers working within athletics should consider the following guidance, which can expose volunteers to risk of allegations. This list is not exhaustive, refer to the [Sport NZ Child Safeguarding Policy](#) for further guidance.

Leaving Children unsupervised

Children (defined as those under the age of 14), cannot be left without reasonable supervision. Within the sport of athletics, children under the age of 14 should not be left unsupervised, except in clearly defined circumstances, and with the knowledge and permission of the children's parents. E.g. going for a run in a controlled area, with a set return time.

Filming and photography

Capturing images and videos of children and young people is an established way of celebrating achievements and promoting the activity, recreation, or sport. Coaches use photographs and videos to assist with coaching and skill development. However, there are some important considerations in regards to photographing and videoing children.

Some key guidance includes:

- Written consent must be obtained from parents/caregivers before any filming or photography of children can take place
- Verbal consent alone cannot be accepted
- If parents/caregivers do not give consent for their child to be photographed, inform approved photographers and staff of any children and young people who must not be photographed
- Do not publish photographs with the full name(s) of children unless you have written parental consent and you have informed the children, parents, or caregivers and whānau how the photograph will be used
- Do not use images of children and detailed personal information in publications, including websites or blogs
- Photography in changing rooms, toilets and showers is not allowed under any circumstances
- Images should focus on the activity or sport, rather than individual children

Changing rooms

All children must be safe in changing facilities where they may be particularly vulnerable to bullying and abuse. Responsible adults will keep children safe and respect appropriate boundaries. Thinking about how you can effectively meet the needs of all children and young people is important. It is important to consider the facilities that are available, who can access them and whether the environment is safe for children and young people.

We know that children and young people are particularly vulnerable in changing areas. Due in part to various stages of dress/undress and because they are often less supervised than at other times. There is a risk of child-to-child problems, such as bullying if the changing room is left unsupervised. The following procedures can help to reduce the risk of misconduct or abuse in changing facilities:

- Changing facilities should not be used by adults and children/young people at the same time. Where this is unavoidable, there should be access to separate changing, showering and toilet areas.

- Under no circumstances should adults be undressed in front of children/young people in changing rooms.
- If disabled children and young people need to use changing facilities, make sure they are accessible and that the disabled child or young person and their parent, caregiver or whānau are involved in deciding if and how they should be assisted. Make sure the child can consent to the assistance that is offered.
- The use of mobile phones and/or photographic equipment with video recording capabilities is not acceptable under any circumstance in changing facilities.
- Where no changing facilities are available, children/ young people and their parents, caregivers or whānau should be made aware of this prior to the activity taking place.
- Parents, caregivers or whānau should be discouraged from entering changing facilities unless it is absolutely necessary.

Travelling alone with a child

Volunteers should not provide transport to children without the specific written permission of the child's parents/caregivers.

Travelling alone with a child exposes you to risk as a volunteer. If permission from a parent/caregiver is granted, the child should sit in the backseat.

Drinking alcohol

Under no circumstances should adults consume alcoholic beverages when supervising children. Volunteers need to be aware that as supervising adults, they may be called upon at any time to attend to any number of Issues. Having alcohol in your system can affect judgement and expose volunteers to unnecessary risk.