

Play Policy

Purpose of this Play Policy

All children are entitled to play; it is intrinsic to their quality of life and an important part of how they learn and enjoy themselves. At our sessions we recognise the importance of play to a child's development, as coaches we support and facilitate play, and do not seek to control or direct it. We will never force children to participate in play but allow children to initiate and direct the experience for themselves.

Facilitating play

We support and facilitate play by:

- ✦ Providing an environment which is secure and suitable for playing in.
- ✦ Setting up the sessions so that activities are ready before the children arrive.
- ✦ Providing a range of equipment, resources and activities daily.
- ✦ Consult with children to request additional or alternative equipment as they choose, and if a request must be refused, explaining why.
- ✦ Not expecting children to be always occupied.
- ✦ Making outdoor play available every day, unless the weather is extreme.
- ✦ Involving children in planning activities, to reflect their own interests and ideas planning activities that enable children to develop their natural curiosity and imagination.
- ✦ Allowing children freedom of creative expression.
- ✦ Intervening in play only when necessary: to reduce risks of accident or injury, or to encourage appropriate social skills.
- ✦ Warning children in advance when an activity or game is due to end.

Play areas and equipment

- ✦ All indoor and outdoor play areas are checked and risk assessed daily before the children arrive in accordance with our Site Risk Assessment
- ✦ The site keeps an inventory of resources and equipment, which is updated regularly and reviewed to identify where any additional resources are required.
- ✦ The resources used at the site promote positive images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and abilities, in line with our Inclusion and Equality Policy

In Session Staff Conduct

Super Star Sport will ensure and allow for a better and full understanding of how staff should conduct themselves within sports sessions that they are leading or assisting.

Specifically this policy is based around staff involvement eg; joining in with the sessions. The policy is to protect the wellbeing of children involved within the sessions as well as protecting the coach and company from potential mishaps.

When within sports sessions the coach should always be able to see each child and never turn their back to the children or be obstructed from view.

The coach can run around with the children but have absolutely NO contact or involve themselves within the game / drill that is being played.

The coach should not run at full speed and should always be aware of the children around them at all times.

A coach should not partake in any competitive activity with the children under any circumstances with no exceptions.

Coaches should not have any physical contact with children within sessions. This includes but is not limited to using objects to contact a child or using any part of their own body to touch a child. Even if this act is seemingly harmless. Absolutely no contact with children at any time with the only exception being high fives.

Policy Responsibility and Review

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was adopted by Super Star Sport	Date: 12/04/2023
To be reviewed: 12/04/2024	Signed: 