

Safeguarding Case Studies

1. Safeguarding and the Care Act case example – capacity to consent (appointments)

Case:

Sam is 15. He has an older brother (19) who plays Ultimate for a local team. Sam's brother attends a local training session every Saturday. Their parents were away for the weekend, leaving the brother in charge. The brother brings Sam to a training session.

Learning Points:

- Implied consent (for the brother to bring Sam to the session) is not enough.
- Parents should be contacted to make sure they give permission for Sam to attend training.
- Under 16s are not classed as having the capacity to consent – this includes opting in or out of activities
- Under 16s need parental permission to attend (or to opt out from) tours, trainings and other events/meetings
- Parental permission should be sought in most situations for under 16s
- Always seek advice from the UKU safeguarding team if you are unsure on best practice, how to safeguard yourself, your teammates and/or your club. for more information visit: <https://www.ukultimate.com/safeguarding>

2. Safeguarding and the Care Act case example – Capacity to consent (data)

Case:

Sarah was 12. She took part in a schools Ultimate session, run and coached by a local team. A variety of schools took part in the event. The team took basic demographics from the children in order to gain contact details for the event, this was collected from a form filled in by the parents. At the end of the session, one parent requested Sarah's details from the Ultimate team as their daughter and

Sarah seemed to have made friends at the event, Sarah overheard and agree to this.

When Sarah's parents arrived to collect her the team informed her parents that they had shared the information with another parent. Sarah's parents were very unhappy that this happened without their consent and raised a complaint.

Learning Points:

- The ability to consent to share data is given to over 13s, however best practice would state that parental permission should be sought up until the age of 18. The team should have sought permission to share Sarah's information from her parents before giving it to another family. Sarah is too young to decide this for herself.
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3. Safeguarding and the Care Act case example – Discriminatory Abuse

Case:

John is 20 he plays in the open division at tour, John is of mixed race background. At a UKU event, John overheard a group of people discussing a previous game using racist terminology about one of the players. The discussion was not directed at John, however, caused offence due to the nature of the content.

John raised a complaint to the TD, and asked for the issue to be raised with the team anonymously.

Learning Points:

- Discrimination should not be tolerated in any form whether direct or indirect.
- The TD should contact UKU with any such complaint, who will then take appropriate action.
- What is not offensive to one person, could be highly offensive to another.
- Issues of Discrimination should always be raised to a Safeguarding Officer and TD so that the best course of action can be decided.
- It is useful to log these occurrences in order to see patterns even if you do not want the issue to be formally raised.

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4. Safeguarding and the Care Act case example – Neglect

Case:

Millie is 15 years old. She has joined a local Ultimate team. Her parents drop her off and pick her up at the end of each session but never make any contact themselves with the club or club members. Millie started attending the club in October, Millie's kit is always dirty and doesn't seem to be washed from the previous week's sessions. In January, one week it was particularly cold and raining, Millie was dropped off to training without a coat, or base layers.

Learning Points:

- Concerns should be identified early on in regards to Millie's appearance, it could also be possible to offer Millie spare clothes during the session to make sure she is warm and safe during the session, as the club has a duty of care for her whilst at training.
- Contact can be made with parents (as early as possible) to ensure Millie is safe at training, only an informal discussion might be needed in the first instance. Discussions with parents could include:
 - Offering regular access to lost property or spare kit the club might have
 - Information on what a game / training entails - if the parents do not watch her play they might simply not understand how wet, muddy and cold it can get.
- Concerns can be raised to a safeguarding officer by anyone in the club, it is everyone's responsibility to safeguard, especially if you have had a discussion with parents and nothing changes.
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5. Safeguarding and the Care Act case example – Inappropriate behaviour

Case:

Brian, is a UKU Level 1 Coach, and regularly coaches a local team “The Flyers”. He has been asked to go into a primary school and to run Ultimate taster sessions. Brian reaches out to his local team for support for on the day so that there are a number of adults on hand to help with coaching.

Brian recruits 6 other members of the team to come help him on the day. All members of the team including Brian are able to show the school their DBS.

During the session, one of the teachers of the primary school approaches Brian because she has heard one of the other volunteers swearing whilst coaching.

Learning Points:

- Swearing or any other abusive language should not be tolerated from anyone in a coaching role or even at a training session with under 18s.
- Coaches should be held to a high standard whether they are coaching children or adults, although these are volunteers, they are representing the sport, the UKU and the coach they are volunteering under.
- Please refer to the coaches code of conduct for more information:
<https://www.ukultimate.com/system/files/UKU%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20for%20Coaches.pdf>

6. Safeguarding and the Care Act case example – Overnight Stays

Case:

A Junior team “The Mini Flyers” have a big Junior league tournament approaching. In preparation for this, both the girls and the boys team are having a ‘training camp’ weekend away. The organisers of the club have arranged a scout hut hall last minute for everyone to sleep in as many have travelled far to get there. When they arrive there are separate boys and girls facilities however there is only one big hall.

Learning Points:

- In order to safeguard the under 18s, and just as importantly, the coaches and the adult support team, steps should have been put into place to ensure that there were no shared sleeping arrangements between the adults and the children before the weekend. Making sure you are well prepared before weekends away with under 18s reduces any risk. In cases of hotels, under 18s should be in single gender rooms and under no circumstance should they be sharing with an adult member of the team, unless explicit permission is given from parents.
- In this case, problem solving on the day would need to take place. Are there any other small rooms the coaches could sleep in e.g. kitchen or corridor?
- Best practice would also separate the boy and the girls sleeping areas.
- Best practice would also require separate shower/toilet facilities for adult staff and the under 18 players. This can be simply labelled on the day through paper signage.
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7. Safeguarding and the Care Act case example – Changing Shirts

Case:

Charlie is the captain of a club team which contains a number of 17 year old players. Shortly before a game begins, Charlie engages in a 'disc toss' with the opposition's captain to determine shirt colours for the game and loses.

Charlie informs the team that they must change their shirts, which they do.

Shortly afterwards, a parent of one of the 17 year old players approaches Charlie to ask why their child had been made to change at the side of the pitch.

Learning Points:

- Though it may be common to see teams changing their shirts at the side of a pitch before a game, it could be a source of concern for players and parents.
- Under-18 players should not be changing in front of adult players. Further, you could leave yourself open to questioning if you directly ask an under-18 to change in front of you, even when you may consider it 'normal' to do so.

- Adult players may also feel uncomfortable changing in front of under-18s too, and seeing this taking place can still be a cause for concern for parents/spectators.
- Even in all-adult teams, there are many reasons why players may not wish to change their shirts in front of others.
- Best practice would be to confirm the shirt colour to be played in well in advance of the game start time, in order to allow all players the time to go to the toilets/changing rooms to get changed should they wish. Under-18s and adults should not change in the same changing rooms. It may be that parents/DBS checked players escort the under-18 players to the changing facilities, but they should wait outside while the under-18s change.
- If there is not enough time for this to happen before the start of the game, it may be possible to discuss the situation (of having under-18s in the team) with the opposition, and agree that they will change shirts instead.
- Having bibs in colours that match kit shirts will also allow players to easily change their colour without removing their shirt (as does putting one shirt over another). However, particularly on hot days, this may lead to players being uncomfortable or overheating. It may also contravene uniform regulations at some events.
- If none of the above options are available, it may be that some players (likely to be the under-18s if they are the minority on the team, along with any chaperones) will miss the initial points of the game. Care should be taken to ensure that these players don't feel that they are 'letting the team down' as a result, and apologies should be made for any disappointment they may feel in 'missing out'.
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8. Safeguarding and the Care Act case example – Transport to events

Case:

Jessie is organising transport for their team to attend a tournament. Some of the players attending are under-18.

Not all of the under-18s are able to be taken to the event by their parents, and they have asked if they can have lifts with adult players.

There is also an under-18 player who has asked if they can travel with the parent of another under-18 player.

Learning Points:

- Organising shared transport for tournaments makes sense for teams for many reasons (reducing the fuel costs per person, reducing burden on parking facilities at the venue, providing bonding time, reducing carbon footprint). However, additional care must be taken when some of those players are under-18.
- The parents of any under-18 players MUST be directly involved in transportation planning and organising communications (i.e. you should directly call, email or speak to parents, not just ask the under-18 players to pass the message on).
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