

## WORKSTREAM 1 – Policy framework

### Action 3: consult people, particularly children, when developing a policy

#### Guidelines for involving children and young people in the development and implementation of a safeguarding policy

##### Do you only involve children and young people, or also other stakeholders?

When consulting on the development or implementation of a safeguarding policy, consider who should be involved in the process. Do you include only children and young people, or also other key stakeholders?

To ensure a well-rounded and inclusive approach, you can choose from several participation models:

- **Joint participation:** Organise a process in which children, young people, and other stakeholders—such as coaches, board members, and parents—take part together.
- **Separate consultations:** Hold distinct participation sessions for children and young people and for other stakeholder groups. This can help create safe and open spaces for each group to express their views freely.
- **Child- and youth-focused participation:** Conduct a process that focuses solely on the voices of children and young people, especially if they are typically underrepresented.

While adult stakeholders are often already consulted during policy development, the views of children and young people are frequently overlooked. If you choose to involve them in broader participation processes, be intentional: allocate sufficient time, resources, and support to ensure their voices are genuinely heard and taken seriously.

##### Do you involve children and young people directly, or through their advocates?

When considering the inclusion of children and young people in the policy process, you have two main options for participation: direct and indirect involvement.

- **Direct participation:** Children and young people are directly involved in the process, sharing their own perspectives and ideas.
- **Indirect participation:** Advocates, such as parents, guardians, or representatives, participate on behalf of the children and young people.

## Do you choose a formal or informal approach?

You can opt for either formal or informal engagement, depending on your objectives and the environment:

- **Formal methods:** These may include advisory councils, meetings, information sessions, and surveys or questionnaires designed to gather feedback and discuss solutions collaboratively.
- **Informal methods:** These are more relaxed and can include activities such as:
  - Observing children and young people during sports or recreational activities.
  - Engaging in casual conversations during activities or events.

## What role will children and young people play in the process?

There are several possible roles for children and young people within the development and implementation of safeguarding policies. These roles include:

- **Know.** Children and young people are informed about the safeguarding issues that affect them within their sports club.
- **Think.** Children and young people reflect on and share their thoughts and concerns about safeguarding, drawing from their personal experiences.
- **Talk.** Children and young people talk about their views and experiences related to safeguarding with peers and adults.
- **Decide.** Children and young people actively contribute to decision-making, either individually or collaboratively with those creating the club's safeguarding policy.
- **Participate.** After a decision is made, children and young people are involved in the implementation of the safeguarding measures.
- **Evaluate.** Children and young people assess whether the safeguarding objectives have been met and provide feedback on how it can be improved.

Discuss this with the children and young people: what role do they want to play, and can you also fulfil that role?

It's important to have a conversation with children and young people about the roles they want to take on in the process. Can you support them in fulfilling these roles effectively?