

Barker Martial Arts Ltd

Registered in England, Company Number 7491258

VAT Number 105 2570 50

North Lodge, Hurst Lane, Headley, KT18 6DL

Instructor Ratios

Instructors working with children and adults at risk should not work in isolation. It is important to have the correct level of supervision from a health and safety point of view so that instructors reduce the risk of injury to students and ensure adequate cover remains in case of an emergency. Good practice means at least one other adult in addition to the instructor should be present at every session to supervise. The additional adults do not need to be qualified instructors as long as the ratio of instructors: students are met. Participants aged under 18 should not be included in staffing ratios, even if they have coaching qualifications. Parents/Carers/Guardians should also not be included in supervision ratios unless they are acting in specific role and not solely in the role of a carer.

The level of supervision should take account of the:

- ability and experience of the students
- age and any disabilities or special requirements of any of the children or adults at risk
- activity being undertaken
- geography of the facilities being used (i.e. restricted access to the School or facility)
- 'risk assessment' of the activity and facility.

When working with groups of children under 8 years of age government guidance states clearly that the threshold should be one supervising adult for every 6 children (Care Standards Act 2000).

When working with young people aged over 8 years old the ideal coaching ratio is one instructor for every 8-12 students. If there is an accident or an incident which may mean a member of staff has to leave, you should ensure that there are enough people remaining to supervise the group.

It is essential that all instructors are suitably qualified according to, where applicable, NGB standards. Young people can become involved in coaching but they should be assisting qualified instructors and not delivering sessions until they are appropriately qualified. People under the age of 18 years cannot be included in coaching ratios and should not be left in charge of other children unsupervised.

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