WWPIS
Working With
PARENTS
IN SPORT

For sports parents

Choosing a club: 10 questions to ask

The right environment matters more than the badge on the shirt. Watch a session, talk to the coach and other parents, and tick off what you find.

- [ ] 1 **Will my child enjoy it?**
  Are the children smiling, active and involved, not queuing or standing still?
- [ ] 2 **What is the club's focus?**
  Development and enjoyment, or winning at all costs? How do they define success?
- [ ] 3 **Who are the coaches?**
  Qualified, safeguarding-trained and checked? How do they talk to children?
- [ ] 4 **How are children kept safe?**
  Is there a welfare officer, a safeguarding policy and first aid cover?
- [ ] 5 **How is playing time decided?**
  Is there a fair-time policy for younger ages? How is selection explained?
- [ ] 6 **Is there room for other sports?**
  Will they support my child playing other sports and taking breaks?
- [ ] 7 **What's the commitment?**
  Sessions, matches, travel, the season length and any time off.
- [ ] 8 **What will it cost?**
  Fees, kit, travel, camps and tours, and any help available.
- [ ] 9 **How does the club work with parents?**
  Clear communication, a code of conduct, and a calm touchline?
- [ ] 10 **Is everyone welcome?**
  Girls' teams, different abilities, additional needs and disabilities?

Warning signs

- Lots of shouting from coaches or the touchline
- Only the "best" children get to play
- Pressure to drop other sports at a young age
- Promises of trials, scouts or a pathway "if you pay"
- Vague answers about safeguarding

Don't forget to ask your child

- Did you enjoy it?
- How did the coach make you feel?
- Would you like to go back?

Your notes

Club:

Date visited:

Coach:

Cost:

What we liked:

Any concerns:



Try before you commit

Ask for a free taster session, take your time, and remember: the right club for your friend's child may not be the right club for yours.

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