

Appendix 6 - Physical intervention

'Physical intervention' refers to any method of responding to challenging behaviour which involves some degree of direct physical force to limit or restrict movement or mobility.

Physical intervention should only be used as a last resort in an emergency situation and should always be as minimal as possible.

For example:

- when there is an immediate danger of serious injury to others or the individual
- after you have tried everything to keep the situation safe, including de-escalation, removing others from the situation, and any planned strategies

When managing an incident, guidance on the **Yellow Card** should be followed, including informing other leaders what you are doing, and having at least one additional adult volunteer present (minimum of 2 adults). Whilst ensuring the safety of young people in your care, it is important to keep yourself safe. Remember to report any physical interventions immediately following The Scout Association reporting procedures for Child Protection concerns.

Following an incident involving physical intervention, parents and line managers (GSL/DC) should be informed immediately. Where possible, the Leader and young person involved should not continue with any further Scouting activities until advised to do so.

After the incident management process has concluded, the leadership team should have time for reflection and planning, to prevent the situation occurring again. Risk must be assessed and a planned response put in place, in the event of a future situation escalating. This should be agreed with the parent or carer, following discussion. It is recommended that any agreements are written and signed by parent or carer, and a date set for review.

Q: What if I need to break up a physical fight between young people?

A: The focus should be on being aware of warning signs and de-escalating the situation before it gets to this point. However, if young people do get into a physical fight, it is important that the Leadership team respond quickly.

If the young people involved do not respond to firm instructions to stop, consider if you can stand between the young people and get them apart without force. This action should be accompanied with calm, firm verbal communications to de-escalate and make it clear to all involved that you are protecting them from harm.

If you physically intervene as a last resort when there is risk of immediate harm, this should be reported as above.

Q: What about if I need to escort a young person away from an escalating situation?

A: Preferably, this would be without using physical contact. If physical contact is used, such as guiding by the arm or hand, it should be appropriate. If any force has been used, this should be reported as above