

Tullow RFC Youth & Mini Transport Policy

The guidance from the Irish Sports Council encourages coaches not to take children on journeys alone in their car.

Given the issue of supervision Tullow RFC have traditionally had parents transport minis to and from blitzes. There is an extra responsibility on adults and leaders when they transport young people to events. Adults should,

- Ensure there is adequate insurance on their car and that they follow the rules of the road, including the legal use of seat belts.
- The driver is legally responsible to ensure that all children wear seatbelts at all times. It should also be noted that under 12's are not permitted to travel in the front seat of a vehicle.
- Ensure they do not carry more than the permitted number of passengers.
- Avoid being alone with one passenger, put passengers in the back seat, have central drop off locations or seek parental permission when transporting on a regular basis.
- Parents should check with transport arrangements with their child's coach and be sure that they are happy with the transport arrangements.
- The driver should have a point of contact and mobile phone should they break down.

Best practice is clearly to avoid transporting a child alone, but it is acknowledged that in some circumstances it is an essential part of a child's participation in training and competition.

- Where the coaches are also parents and have arrangements with other parents to share transport this is viewed as a private agreement.
- Two coaches must stay until all players have been collected. If there is a problem and one coach needs to leave early, try to make arrangements with other coaches present on the night or phone the Child Welfare Officer or Child Protection Officer.
- It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to make arrangements for collections of young people, it should be made clear that the club is responsible for only club activities.
- If in the case of an emergency and parents/guardians are late and cannot be contacted coaches should phone Child Welfare Officer/Child Protection Officer for assistance.

It is important to start and finish training at the correct time, if you finish late parents will develop a habit of coming late to collect children.

If all else fails and you have to transport a child alone the following guidelines should be followed.

- Phone another club official as well as the child's parent/guardian and explain the situation.
- Outline the route you will take and the approximate journey time.
- Ensure the child sits in the back of the car.
- Once you have arrived at your destination phone the club official you spoke to earlier and inform them that you have arrived.

Like all advice these procedures will only reduce the risk and the best advice is to avoid transporting children alone in the car.