

Supervising Ratios

Activity	Maximum Group Size	Minimum Ratios	Minimum Qualifications
Areas with public access	No Specific Requirements		
Mines/Caves exploration – simple, no ascending/descending (under 18m)	12 (young people and adults)	At least 1 qualified adult for every 10 young people	Local Cave/Mine Leader – Level 1. (nb “Cave/Mine Leaders” are certified for specified cave/mines only)
Mines/Caves involving simple ascending/descending	10 (young people and adults)	At least 1 qualified adult for every 8 young people	Local Cave/Mine Leader – Level 2.
Show Caves/Mines Journeys beyond public, marked/lit areas	As above	As above	As above
Mining/Caving, involving sustained climbing (more than 18m)	Maximum group size – 6 (young people and adults)	At least 1 qualified adult with one experienced adult for every 4 young people	Cave Instructor Certificate
Cycling	12 young people	1:10 If some group members are inexperienced in riding within groups, an assistant leader should also be appointed	None is required though leaders may consider gaining British Cycling Federation Awards. It should be noted that this award is aimed at producing effective coaching of personal skills, not necessarily leadership for groups of young people.

Activity	Maximum Group Size	Minimum Ratios	Minimum Qualifications
Simple Normal Country Walking (category A in summer conditions)	15	At least 1 competent/qualified/accredited adult for every 15 young people. For Duke of Edinburgh groups see separate section.	
Low Level Hillwalking (category B in summer conditions)	15	At least 1 accredited/qualified adult and one competent adult for every 15 young people.	County accreditation/Basic Expedition Leadership Award (BELA)
High Level Hillwalking (category C in summer conditions)	12 (young people and adults)	At least 1 accredited/qualified adult and one competent adult for every 10 young people.	County accreditation/Walking Group Leader Award
Mountain Walking (category C in summer conditions)	12 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified and one competent adult for every 10 young people.	Mountain Leader Award (Summer)
More serious mountain scrambling – Grade 1 or above (i.e. sustained ridge route needing rope protection)	12 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified adult for every 6 young people.	Mountain Instructor Award. Association of British Mountain Guides – Mountain Guide.
Winter Mountain Walking (probability of encountering snow/ice but no steep ground involved)	10 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified and one experienced adult for every 8 young people.	Winter Mountain Leader Award
European/Alpine Hillwalking (i.e. no rock climbing involved)	8 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified adult for every 6 young people.	European Mountain Leader Award

Activity	Maximum Group Size	Minimum Ratios	Minimum Qualifications
Rock climbing – Simple one pitch/top or bottom roping	12 (young people and adults)	At least one competent/qualified/accredited adult for every 10 young people.	Single Pitch Award
Easy-to-difficult multi-pitch climbs	4 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified adult for every 3 young people.	Mountain Instructors Award
Difficult-to-severe multi-pitch climbs	Maximum group size – 3 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified adult for every 2 young people.	Mountain Instructors Award
Climbing Walls/Artificial Towers	For low (less than 6m high) indoor walls there is no legal requirement to hold a qualification, however it is good practice. Many commercial operators require visiting staff to produce a SPA qualification along with current first aid and evidence of insurance cover. Some commercial operators run their own accreditation schemes, which are specific to the venue/site. Artificial Towers require no specific qualification however it is good practice to hold the SPA award or have undertaken site specific approved accreditation. Those leading bouldering activity should conform to SPA requirements.		
Roads, tracks, well defined bike riding routes, without steep slopes	12 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified adult for every 10 young people.	Level 1 Leader or similar competence
Tracks, fairly well defined routes, some moderate slopes requiring skilled techniques	10 (young people and adults)	One qualified adult and one other adult.	Level 2 Leader or similar competence (BELA/WGL/ML with experience)
Wild country, steep slopes, requiring high level of experience and skill	8 (young people and adults)	At least two qualified adults.	Level 3 Leader or similar competence (BELA/WGL/ML with experience)

Activity	Maximum Group Size	Minimum Ratios	Minimum Qualifications
Orienteering – in school grounds/private areas/centre grounds	Category A activity 35 or class size	At least one competent adult for school site. At least one competent adult for every 15 young people away from establishment.	Local accreditation
Orienteering in local parkland/small woods	Category A/B activity 35 or class size	At least one qualified or competent adult for every 15 young people.	BOF Level 1 Coach or local accreditation
Orienteering in sites with clear boundaries including forests	Category B/C 12	At least one qualified adult and one competent adult for every 10 young people.	BOF Level 2 Coach or BELA/WGL
Skiing	12	One responsible adult or instructor to ten party members.	Party leaders should have attended a Ski Course Organisers (SCO) course run by the English Ski Council or equivalent. It is also desirable that other staff in the party also attend the course. The Alpine Ski Courses Leader (previous SCO 2 Course) is more detailed and resort based. Party leaders are encouraged to attend this course. The above courses cover all aspects of the organisation of ski courses but are not teaching qualifications, for which a (BASI) qualification of the British Association of Ski Instructors or similar is required.

Activity	Maximum Group Size	Minimum Ratios	Minimum Qualifications
Gorge scrambling	12 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified leader for every 10 young people.	Mountain Leader Award (Summer). Qualifications will depend upon the venue and challenges and will come from a detailed risk assessment of each venue. Each venue or even each route at the same venue may different skills, qualifications and knowledge.
Inland canoeing – Placid water e.g. small lakes, canals, slow moving rivers	Maximum group size – 12 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified adult for every 10 young people.	(i) Inland Kayak (closed cockpit) – Level 1 Kayak Coach (ii) Placid Water (open cockpit) – Level 1 Placid Water Coach (iii) Canoe – Level 1 Canoe Coach
Larger open areas of water and easy moving rivers (Grade I)	12 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified adult for every 10 young people.	(i) Inland Kayak (Closed cockpit) – Level 2 Kayak Coach (ii) Placid Water (Open cockpit) – Level 2 Placid Water Coach (iii) Canoe – Level 2 Canoe Coach
Inland – Moving water (Grade II)	8 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified adult for every 6 young people.	(i) Inland Kayak (Closed cockpit) – Level 3 Kayak Coach (ii) Canoe – Level 3 Canoe Coach

Activity	Maximum Group Size	Minimum Ratios	Minimum Qualifications
Sea, close to shore, sheltered coves/bays	10 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified adult for every 10 young people.	Level 3 Sea Coach
Sea, none sheltered waters, off-shore expeditions	8 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified adult for every 6 young people.	Level 4 Sea Coach
5 Surf, up to 1m	12 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified adult and one competent adult for every 10 young people.	Level 3 Surf Coach
Surf, above 1m	8 (young people and adults)	At least one qualified adult for every 6 young people.	Level 4 Surf Coach
Inland Windsurfing	12 (young people)	At least one qualified person for every 6 boards being sailed.	As for sailing the activity will normally be experienced through a recognised RYA establishment or AALA licensed provider. A windsurfing session should have a RYA Windsurfing Instructor – Level 2, in attendance at all times. RYA – Windsurfing Instructor – Level 2
Sea Windsurfing	8 (young people)	At least one qualified person for every 4 boards being sailed.	A windsurfing session should be supervised by a RYA Windsurfing Instructor – Level 2, in attendance at all times. Min qualification – RYA – Windsurfing Instruction Level 2, with tidal endorsement. A safety/rescue boat should be available at all times as for sailing.

Activity	Maximum Group Size	Minimum Ratios	Minimum Qualifications
Sea level traversing	12 (young people)	At least one qualified leader for every 10 young people.	Min qualifications: Where rope work is involved – Mountaineering Instructors Award (MIA) plus recognised lifesaving award. Where no vertical rope work is involved/pitches under 3m – Mountain Leader plus recognised lifesaving award. Qualifications will depend upon the venue and challenges therein and will come from a detailed risk assessment of each venue. Each venue or even each route at the same venue, may need different skills, qualifications and knowledge.
Duke of Edinburgh Award			
Activity	Maximum Group Size	Minimum Ratios	Minimum Qualifications
Non- Wild Country	14 young people. Max. 2 groups	At least one accredited/qualified adult and one competent adult.	County Accreditation/BELA
Wild Country 600m	14 young people. Max. 2 groups	At least one accredited/qualified adult and one competent adult.	County Accreditation/BELA
Wild Country 600+ (training)	10 young people. Max. 2 groups	At least one accredited/qualified adult and one competent adult.	County Accreditation/Walking Group Leader/Mountain Leader

Duke of Edinburgh Award continued			
Activity	Maximum Group Size	Minimum Ratios	Minimum Qualifications
Wild Country 600+ (practice/qualifying)	12 young people	At least one accredited/qualified adult and one competent adult.	County Accreditation/Walking Group Leader/Mountain Leader
Assessment/Qualifying venture	12 young people. Max. 2 groups	At least one accredited/qualified adult and one competent adult.	County Accreditation/Walking Group Leader/Mountain Leader

