



ZWIĄZEK HARCERSTWA POLSKIEGO ZARZĄD OKRĘGU w WIELKIEJ BRYTANII POLISH SCOUTING ASSOCIATION (UK Region) Ltd.



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PSA UK REGION Guidelines

Adult to Child Ratios

Introduction

The Polish Scouting Association UK Region (PSA UK Region) aims to ensure that all activities involving children and young people are supervised to a standard that reflects good practice and supports their safety and wellbeing. While supervision levels are not prescribed by law, leaders should plan supervision in a way that reflects what a prudent parent would reasonably provide, and also in compliance with these guidelines provided herein by PSA UK Region Ltd

Leaders should consider the age, needs, abilities, and behaviour of the children in their care. Younger children generally require closer supervision, and units should plan their adult presence accordingly. All adults aged 18+ must hold appropriate DBS/PVG clearance and current safeguarding training – see [Safeguarding Operational Guidance DBS PVG Training](#)

The following guidance outlines the **minimum supervision levels and other parameters required** for PSA UK Region activities. These represent the **lowest acceptable standard**, and leaders should increase supervision, and/or other parameters where risk assessment indicates additional needs.

1. Normal Meeting Place Activities and Local Day Trips

Skrzaty (Rainbows/Beavers)

The **minimum supervision level** is **1 adult: 6 children**. Leaders should ensure at least **two adults**, including one **over 21**.

Units are encouraged to keep group sizes up to a maximum of **23 children**, taking into account available facilities and individual needs. Young leaders under 18 should be counted as children for ratio purposes.

Examples:

- 5 children → 1 adult 21+ and 1 adult 18+
- 10 children → 1 adult 21+ and 1 adult 18+



Zuchy (Brownies/Cubs)

The **minimum supervision level** is **1 adult : 8 children**. Leader should ensure that Units have at least **two adults** present.

A typical unit size is **up to 31 children**, adjusted for facilities and individual needs, though larger groups may be agreed with the Regional Commissioner. Young leaders under 18 count as children.

Examples:

- 7 children → 2 adults
- 25 children → 3 adults

Jednostka Harcerska (Guide/Scout Unit)

The **minimum supervision level** is **1 adult : 12 children**. Leaders should ensure that Units have at least **two adults** present – see note below.

A typical unit size is **up to 35 children**, adjusted for facilities and individual needs. Young leaders under 18 count as children.

Examples:

- 11 children → 2 adults
- 22 children → 2 adults
- 26 children → 3 adults

Note: The requirement for two adults present is the minimum requirement for units operating in a standalone activity environment. See Additional Consideration below for when unit meeting is concurrent with and in same location as meetings of other units.

Jednostka Wędrownicza (Explorer Guides/Scouts 15+)

There is **no fixed ratio**, but leaders should ensure dedicated adult supervision at all times. A minimum of **two adults** is generally recommended, but can be fewer or more depending on the group size and activity.

A detailed risk assessment should guide decisions, taking into account the nature of the activity, age range, and individual needs.



Additional Considerations for All Units

Leaders should plan for the best possible supervision at all times. Mixed-gender groups should have both male and female supervision where appropriate.

When outside the normal meeting place, adults accompanying the group should focus solely on supervising unit members and should not be responsible for additional children (e.g., their own younger children).

Some situations may require **higher supervision levels**, including:

- specific child needs
- behavioural concerns identified in the risk assessment
- activities requiring additional oversight

Explorer units should consult their programme coordinator (referent/Hufcowy) when planning supervision for daytime activities.

Additional Considerations for Jednostka Harcerska (Guide/Scout Units)

Leaders can run a unit with fewer adults, but only if they can minimise risk by

- running the unit meeting in a building where there are other adults present with DBS and safeguarding training
- sharing the responsibility of other supervisory adult members of PSA UK Region in the building/meeting locality
- running the meeting with young leaders in support
- finding second adult to help for the long term; this could be a parent or other volunteer, suitably complying with DBS/PVG requirements and safeguarding training.
- making sure that parents and carers understand that the unit is running with one adult



2. Overnight Stays (zimowisko, biwak, kolonia, obóz)

Skrzaty (Rainbows/Beavers)

These units **do not** run overnight programmes.

Zuchy (Brownies/Cubs)

Overnight stays may be offered for children **aged 7+**. The **minimum supervision level** is **1 adult : 8 children**, plus the adult leader. At least **two adults should be over 21**.

Young leaders under 18 count as children.

Example:

- 14 children → 3 adults (2 aged 21+)

Leaders wishing to bring their own children under 7 should seek approval through a risk assessment.

Sleeping arrangements must ensure adults are close enough to supervise, but **no adult over 18 may share accommodation with anyone under 18**, unless they are in the same school year group, when sharing would be permitted. Sleeping areas should be gender-separated, with toilet access not requiring crossing another gender's sleeping area.

Adults whose primary role is not child supervision (e.g., catering) should not be counted in ratios but must still meet DBS/safeguarding requirements.

Jednostka Harcerska (Guide/Scout Unit)

Overnight stays may be offered for children **aged 11+**. The **minimum supervision level** is **1 adult : 12 children** with a **minimum of 2 adults, at least 1 of whom is over 21**.

Young leaders under 18 count as children.

Example:

- 18 children → 3 adults (min. 1 aged 21+)

Sleeping arrangements follow the same safeguarding expectations as above, where possible and practical, and guided by the risk assessment.



Jednostka Wędrownicza (Explorer Guides/Scouts 15+)

All overnight activities for participants under 18 should have adults present. A minimum of **two adults** is recommended, dependent on the final numbers guided by the risk assessment.

Sleeping arrangements must follow safeguarding expectations as above, where possible and practical, and guided by the risk assessment.

3. Travelling Abroad

Skrzaty and Zuchy

These units do not travel abroad as part of PSA UK Region programmes. Individual children may travel with a parent who is an adult member, subject to early agreement with UK Commissioners and risk assessment. The accompanying parent is **not counted** in supervision ratios.

Jednostka Harcerska (Guide/Scout Unit)

Overseas overnight stays may be offered for children **aged 11+**. The **minimum supervision level** is **1 adult : 12 children**, plus the adult leader. At least **two adults should be over 21**.

Young leaders under 18 count as children.

Example:

- 18 children → 3 adults (min. 2 aged 21+)

Sleeping and safeguarding arrangements follow the same expectations as UK overnight stays.

Jednostka Wędrownicza (Explorer Guides/Scouts 15+)

Overseas overnight stays for participants aged **15–18** follow the same minimum supervision level: **1 adult : 12 young people**. A minimum of **one adult** aged 21 + is required, dependent on the final numbers guided by the risk assessment.

Groups where all participants are over 18 should be considered individually and approved by the relevant UK Commissioner.



4. General Notes

- An adult is defined as **18+** but note where expectations specify **21+**.
- Young leaders aged 16+ who support activities **do not count** toward adult supervision levels.
- Leaders should consider experience, training, and safeguarding competence when planning supervision.
- All adults must be PSA UK Region members with current DBS/PVG and recommended safeguarding training.
- It is recommended that at least two adults have First Aid training.
- Supervision levels listed in this document represent **minimum standard requirements**; leaders should increase supervision where risk assessment indicates additional needs.
- All overnight stays should be approved by the relevant UK Commissioners.
- Parents are informed of supervision levels during annual registration or through overnight-stay communications.
- Only in emergencies should one adult be alone with young people during an overnight stay.

5. Transition Period

It is recognised that on publication of this Adult to Child Ratio Guideline some units may find that they do not comply with the supervision ratios or other parameters, from the outset.

Given this, a transition period of one school year is introduced to enable Leaders of units to work with the Opiekun(k)i/ Szczepowi(e), with the local KHP and the Safeguarding Leads in each Hufiec, through the risk assessment protocol methodology, in order to:

- i) to develop risk assessment acceptable to and approved by Regional Commissioners, to permit continuation of the immediate activities, and
- ii) to develop a road map for their specific circumstances to achieve compliance within a period of one school year, ie June 2027 (Scotland) and July 2027 (England and Wales) from the publication of these guidelines.

In the event that such compliance cannot be achieved in the transition period, consideration must be given to suspend the operation of the respective unit, until such time as the compliance can demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Regional Commissioners.

PSA UK REGION Zarząd will be provided with a report in February 2027, summarising progress towards 100% compliance throughout the organisation.

