



# ZWIĄZEK HARCERSTWA POLSKIEGO

## ZARZĄD OKRĘGU w WIELKIEJ BRYTANII

### POLISH SCOUTING ASSOCIATION (UK Region) Ltd.

Registered in England and Wales No.: 08352009,  
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Registered Office: 23-31 Beavor Lane, London W6 9AR

#### Adult to Child ratios

Guidance on appropriate levels of supervision for children of different age groups and with different needs is not prescribed by law but we have a responsibility under common law to keep children safe in the same way as a prudent parent would.

When working with groups of children or young people, it is important that the level of supervision is appropriate to their age group and their needs, which may be very specific. In general, younger children need to be more closely supervised and will require a higher adult to child ratio.

The Polish Scouting Association UK Region (PSA UK Region) has considered recommendations on adult to child ratios from other scouting and guiding organisations, in relation to the existing safeguarding structures of our organisation. PSA UK Region suggest the following adult to child ratios for **normal meeting place** activities:

- **Skrzaty** (Rainbows/Beavers): 1 adult to 6 children with minimum 2 adults (over 18 years) irrespective of size of unit. Suggested maximum size of unit is 18-24 children and must reflect the available safe facilities.
- **Zuchy** (brownies/cubs): 1 adult to 8 children with minimum 1 adult (over 18 years) irrespective of size of unit. Suggested maximum size of unit is 30 children and must reflect the available safe facilities, but may be more by agreement.
- **Jednostka harcierska** (guide/scout group): 1 adult irrespective of size of unit to 12 children. Suggested maximum unit size 36 children and must reflect the available safe facilities, but may be more by agreement.
- **Jednostka wędrownicza** (explorer guides/scouts 15+): no specific ratio but with appropriate level of adult support as consulted with line manager (Referent/Hufcowy).

The above ratios are mandatory when taking the unit out of the normal meeting place. Every effort should be made to achieve the best level of supervision of children at all times. Consideration should be given to mixed gender groups to include male and female supervision.

When taking the unit outside of the normal meeting place, the adults accompanying the unit are there to take responsibility for the members of the unit and must not have responsibility for any other children who are not members of the unit. For certain outdoor activities in groups, an adult should be within the area for supervision, conduct regular checks and be available for emergency communication.

Certain situations may require a higher number of adults to children eg.

- Specific child needs
- the Risk Assessment identifies behaviour as a potential issue for the group or event
- the Risk Assessment identifies aspects of the planned event requiring additional adult supervision
- Jednostka wędrownicza (explorer guides/scouts) need to consider type of daytime activity and consult with line manager (referent/Hufcowy) to agree appropriate level of adult support.

**Overnight stays – mandatory at all times:** (any overnight stays eg: zimowisko, biwak, kolonia, obóz)

- **Skrzaty** (Rainbow/Beavers): do not have a programme for overnight stays and applications from under 7 year olds should not be considered
- **Zuchy** (brownies/cubs): 1 adult to 8 children with a minimum of 2 adults over 21 years
- **Jednostka harcierska** (guide/scout group): 1 adult to 12 children with a minimum of 1 adult over 21 years and one adult over 18 years
- **Jednostka wędrownicza** (explorer guides/scouts 15+): Adequate supervision dependent on type of overnight stay to be consulted with line manager (referent/hufcowy). Appropriate checkpointing and emergency communications in place if no over 18s are present for camping trips.

### **Travelling Abroad - mandatory**

- **Skrzaty and zuchy** units do not travel abroad within our scouting programmes. Individual skrzaty/zuchy may occasionally travel with an adult parent member on the understanding that the Commission agrees the adequate overall adult/child ratio of the group.
- **Jednostka Harcierska** (guide/scout group) : 1 adult to 12 children with a minimum of 2 adults over 21 years
- **Jednostka wędrownicza** (explorer guides/scouts 15+): Adequate supervision dependent on type of overnight stay to be consulted with line manager (referent/hufcowy). but minimum 1 adult (over 21 years) within group if under 18 year olds are taking part.

### **General**

1. An adult leader in PSA UK Region has completed instructor training (stopien instruktorski).
2. An adult is 18+ but note where an adult over 21 is specified
3. Adults applying to join the Polish Scouting Associations can be considered as forming the Adult Child Ratio once the full procedure of admittance has been undertaken and they have the DBS/PVG certificate confirmed. The Regional Commissioner (Hufcowy/a) decides on the suitability of Aspiranci as adult leaders into the adult/child ratio.
4. A young leader aged 16+ (przyboczny/a, drużynowy/a) is approved by the Regional Commissioner (hufcowy/a)
5. Consider adequate leader experience and training, ensure leaders and young leaders attend training courses run by the Districts and Commissions in accordance with internal rules and regulations (Regulamin Organizacji Harcerok, Regulamin Organizacji Harcerzy).
6. Consider adequate Child Protection Training as recommended by PSA UK Region <http://www.zhpwb.org.uk/okreg-wielko-brytyjski/dokumenty/>
7. Consider certified First Aid courses for leaders and young leaders
8. When deciding on the number of adults required, it is important to bear in mind that these ratios are guidelines only. In certain situations it will be necessary to have a higher number of adults than our recommendations suggest.
9. All overnight stays must be approved according to other guidelines set out by the Commissions.
10. Consideration should be given when delegating adults to small groups so that parents are not responsible for their own children.

11. In addition to the above Scout and Guide policies and rules (Regulaminy Organizacji Harcerzek i Organizacji Harcerzy) should be applied accordingly.
12. Parental support to allow for the adult to child ratio should be considered where appropriate but a higher proportion of trained leaders to parents should prevail.
13. Parents are made aware of the degree of supervision available and accept these as part of our terms and conditions at annual registration,
14. Only in the event of an emergency should one adult be alone overnight with young people on an overnight stay.

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