

## **Guidelines for Found and Missing children at sports events**

### **Guideline for a found child at sports event**

If a lost child is found during an event, the following procedure will apply:

1. Report the incident to the Event Director and/or Designated Safety Officer
2. Children under the age of 16 years will be kept in a Safe Area until collected by a parent, guardian or a member of an Garda Síochána. Children will be supervised at all times by two responsible adults who have been Garda vetted by Athletics Ireland.
3. Children over the age of 16 years will be free to leave or remain at the Safe Area if they wish after a Found Child form has been completed.
4. A responsible adult is one over the age of 18 years who the lost child or vulnerable person is comfortable with, and who demonstrates responsibility for the person/child and is not considered to pose an obvious threat to the person/child.
5. A Found Child form will be completed for each child including those over 16 who chose not to remain in the Safe Area.
6. Proof of identity may be requested by the Safe Area steward if they consider it necessary.
7. Children not collected by the end of the event will be passed over to the protection of the Gardaí.

Stewards should not escort a child or vulnerable person away from the scene alone. There should be two stewards or a steward and another responsible adult with a child at all times. At all times the comfort and wellbeing of the child must be of paramount concern. If a child or vulnerable person appears unwilling to go with the other member of their group, consider contacting the Gardaí for further advice.

### **Guideline for missing child at sports event**

If a child goes missing during an event, the following procedure will apply:

1. Report the incident to the Event Director and/or Designated Safety Officer
2. Ensure that all other children continue to be supervised appropriately (if applicable), while a search for the child concerned is carried out.
3. Organize the remaining available responsible adults to conduct a search of the surrounding area allocating each individual to a specific area.
4. Request all those searching report back within a short specified time, dependent on the size of the area being searched.

If the child cannot be found after an initial search of the immediate surroundings, contact the child's parents to advise them of the concern and reassure them that everything is being done to locate the child.

Record (missing child form) the circumstances in which the child has gone missing and where he/she was last seen and prepare a detailed physical description of the child, to include their hair and eye colour, approximate height and build and clothing he/she was wearing, as this will be required by the Gardaí and other searchers.

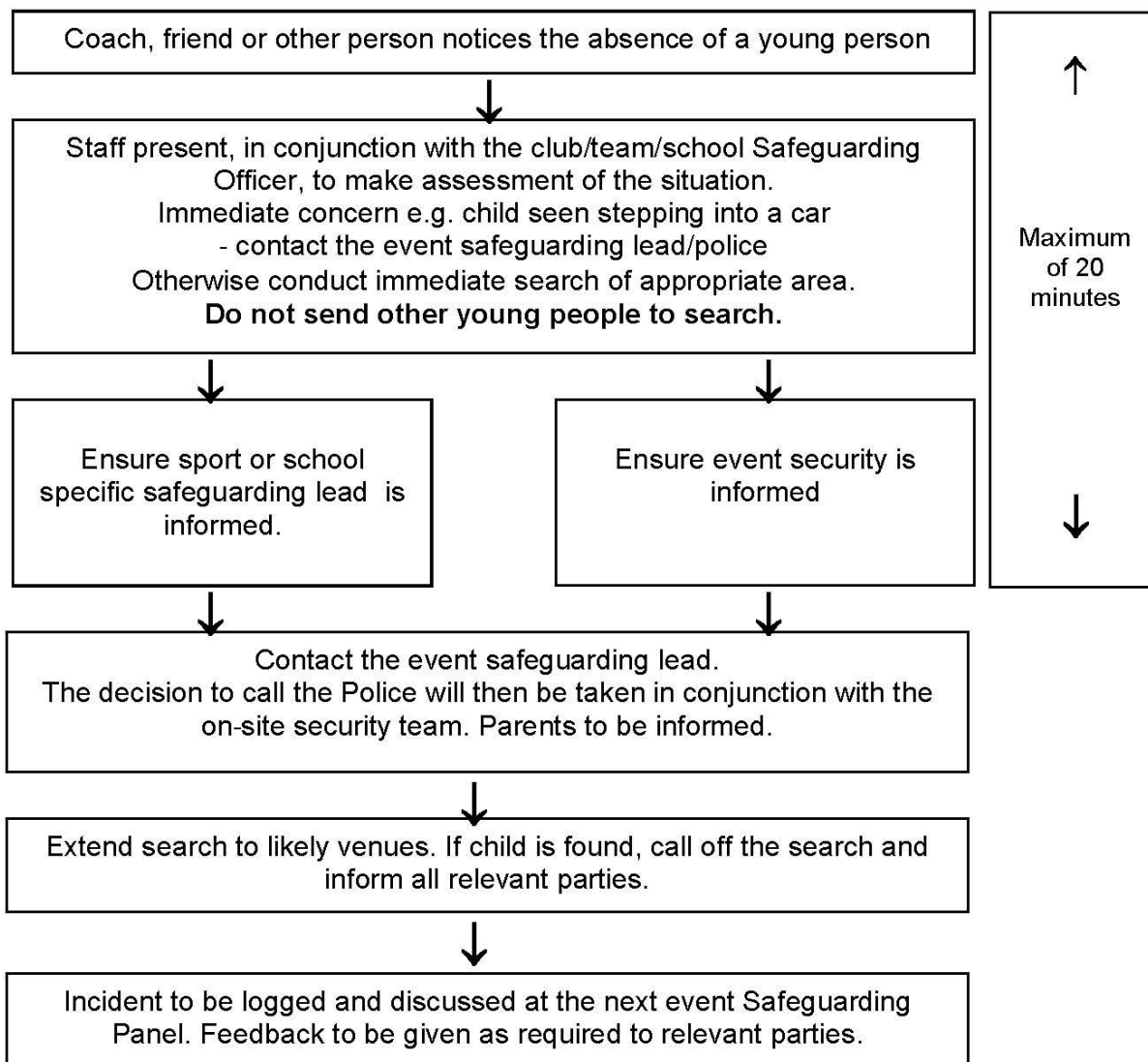
Report the concern to the Gardaí if the search is unsuccessful and no later than 20 minutes after the initial missing person report if the search is ongoing. Follow Gardaí guidance if further action is recommended and maintain close contact with the Gardaí.

Ensure that you inform all adults involved including the parents, searchers and Gardaí when the child is located.

## Missing children and young people at sports events: procedure and flowchart

### Process flowchart:

If an athlete or young volunteer appears to be missing, the flow chart below identifies the process to be followed. There may well be access to photographs of all young people at the event and if so these can be used to help provide the Gardaí with a description should this be necessary.



## Missing Child Reporting Form (member of public or participant)

Event Name:

Date:

Event Director:

<b>Child's Name:</b> <b>Male or Female:</b>	<b>Age of child:</b> <b>D.O.B.:</b>
<b>Time and place child last seen:</b>	<b>Time event staff informed:</b>
<b>Hair Colour:</b> <b>Eye Colour:</b>	<b>Clothing (Colour &amp; Pattern):</b>
<b>Ethnicity:</b>	<b>Any other relevant information</b>
<b>Parent/Guardian name (as reported or from registration form if participant)</b>	<b>Phone Number:</b> <b>Address:</b>
<b>Action taken:</b>  <b>Event Security informed:</b>  <b>Gardai informed:</b>  <b>Other:</b>	<b>Timeline:</b>

## Found Child Reporting Form (member of public or participant)

**Event Name:**

**Date:**

**Event Director:**

<b>Time found:</b>	<b>Location found:</b>
<b>Child's Name:</b>	<b>Age of child:</b>
<b>Male or Female:</b>	<b>D.O.B.:</b>
<b>Hair Colour:</b>	<b>Clothing (Colour &amp; Pattern):</b>
<b>Eye Colour:</b>	
<b>Ethnicity:</b>	<b>Any other relevant information:</b>
<b>Has the child any special medical requirements? (check for medical tags)</b>	<b>Name of Stewards dealing with the child:</b>
<b>Time child handed over to event Steward:</b>	<b>Details of Adult handing the child over Name:</b>
<b>Name of Steward that the child was handed over to:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>
	<b>Role at the event:</b>
<b>Time Event Director was informed:</b>	<b>Any other information:</b>
<b>Name of Parent/Carer collecting child:</b>	<b>Phone Number:</b>
<b>Relationship to child:</b>	<b>Address:</b>
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>ID document/s checked:</b>
<b>Member of event staff handing over child:</b>	<b>Time child reunited with Parent/Carer:</b>
<b>Signature:</b>	