

## Ratios

VPC Leader ratios to cadets and young people.

The overriding principle is that leaders to young person (YP) ratios must be established by a risk assessment for every activity undertaken and /or every event or new activity undertaken.

A minimum ratio of 1:10 (Leaders:YP) must be adhered to at weekly meetings and a minimum of 1:8 for other activities. This may drop considerably depending on the event.

However, it should be noted that there must be a minimum of 2 VPC Leaders present for **ALL** meetings, events or activities. It would be preferable to have at least 3 present, because in the event that one has to leave, e.g. to escort an injured person to hospital, then this would leave the group and the one remaining Leader member vulnerable.

If there is only one Leader present, the activity should stop.

The use of “cadet instructors” (18-19yrs old) must be risk assessed based on the individual. No event will ever be supervised purely by cadet instructors; there must be a minimum of one substantive leader present. Should that substantive leader have to leave for any reason then the activity will end.

Supervision must reflect the gender mix of participants in the group. For a mixed group it is good practice to have a leader group that includes at least one member of each sex. For single sex groups at least one leader must be of the same gender as the participants.

The leadership ratio risk assessment must take into account the needs, abilities and age of the participants, as well as the complexity of the proposed activity and the competence and experience of the leaders.

We suggest the following adult to child ratios for normal unit meetings within the usual meeting place. Unit leadership teams are not required to follow them – except in the case of mini cadet units, who must always have two adults at every meeting.

	Suggested minimum unit size	Suggested unit size	Suggested maximum unit size	Suggested ratio of adult to cadets	Mandatory ratio
<b>Mini Cadets</b>	5	12-15	18	1:5	Minimum of 2 adults irrespective of the size of the unit.
<b>Junior Cadets</b>	12	12-18	24	1:8	Minimum of 2 adults irrespective of the size of the unit.
<b>Cadets</b>	12	12-30	36	1:10	Minimum of 2 adults irrespective of the size of the unit.
<b>18 + year olds</b>	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	