



DIF'S NATIONAL VISION STATEMENT ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

DIF IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FUTURE OF SPORTS
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



future of sports for children and young people.”

“ We want to support and empower the sports communities that Danish children and young people encounter as they participate in our expansive network of over 6,000 youth sports clubs. A great deal is at stake when it comes to this age group. The principles outlined in DIF’s National Vision Statement on Children and Young People enable us to identify key elements in our crucial efforts to shape the

– Hans Natorp, President of DIF



high level of well-being, and where personal development supersedes results.”

“ We aspire to shape a future in which all children and young people are entitled to an active life. Sports communities of the future must be inclusive of all, ensuring that children and young people feel a sense of belonging. Achieving this requires competent adults, who take them seriously and listen to them. We must protect and develop the haven that sports represent. This is a haven where mistakes can be made, where there is a

– Morten Mølholm Hansen, Chief Executive Officer, DIF

WHY DOES DIF NEED A NATIONAL VISION STATEMENT ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

DIF is working to strengthen the role of sports clubs and their cultures, to stimulate the lives of young people and to harness the freedom they gain through organized sports.

With over 800,000 members below the age of 18 DIF is Denmark's largest children's and young people's organization. This gives DIF a unique opportunity to make a significant and positive difference for young people. DIF's National Vision Statement on Children and Young People encompasses the values of DIF, while guiding our efforts to promote a sporting culture among children and young people.



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ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE **ENTITLED TO AN ACTIVE LIFE**

DIF is working to build a future, where all children and young people are entitled to an active and healthy life. This must be organized in a way that ensures their access to physical activity, whether it be at preschool, at school, at home or in their free time.

We want children and young people to have the opportunity to participate in sporting communities, regardless of gender or gender identity, physical abilities, socio-economic background, sexual orientation, religion or ethnicity. We aim to ensure that sporting communities provide room for everyone.

In these sporting communities, children and young people must encounter competent adults, and they must become involved and have a say in matters. Such a culture helps shape active communities characterized by personal development, well-being and fun for all the children and young people involved.

DIF is working for the right to an active life by means of four general principles.



PRINCIPLES

ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MUST HAVE
ACCESS TO SPORTING COMMUNITIES

ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MUST ENCOUNTER
COMPETENT ADULTS IN SPORTING COMMUNITIES

ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MUST **BE**
INVOLVED AND **HAVE A SAY** IN SPORTING
COMMUNITIES

SPORTING COMMUNITIES MUST PROMOTE THE
WELL-BEING AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
OF ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

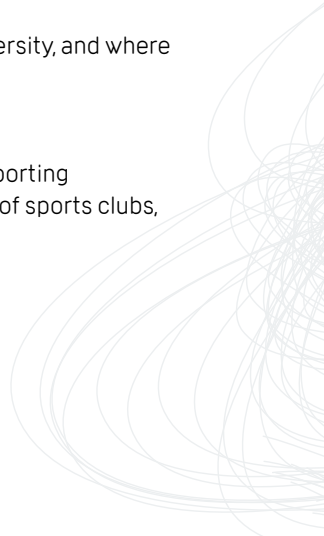




ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MUST HAVE ACCESS TO **SPORTING COMMUNITIES**

We are teaming up with children and young people to shape a future, where everyone has the opportunity to be part of a sporting community and thus have a healthy and active lifestyle. Sporting communities are social spaces where young people can form close relationships with both peers and adults. This helps them develop both personally and physically by collaborating and experiencing togetherness. All children and young people deserve to experience the joy of belonging to one or more of the many sporting communities available.

- Sporting communities must support a culture that respects diversity, and where everyone feels welcome and included in the community.
- Sports clubs have a special responsibility to ensure access to sporting communities for young people who have little or no experience of sports clubs, no matter what age they decide to take up a sport.





ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MUST ENCOUNTER **COMPETENT ADULTS** IN SPORTING COMMUNITIES

Ensuring a good environment for children and young people places demands on the adults involved. This applies to coaches, volunteers and parents. Adults have the responsibility at all times to ensure a healthy and meaningful environment for the children and young people, so they can develop and experience sport as a fun and safe space. Many coaches and assistant coaches are themselves young people, and they are also responsible for ensuring well-functioning sporting communities. This responsibility helps to develop them as people, but they should always be supported in this by competent adults.

- The adults must be prepared to support children and young people in speaking out if they experience their own rights or those of others being violated.
- Resources must at all times be available at DIF to handle and try to prevent violations, and to act in emergency situations.
- Coaches and volunteers must have a basic knowledge of healthy and educative communities and act in accordance with the DIF's National Vision Statement on Children and Young People.
- The competent adults must support the well-being and development of children and young people, based on the motivation, desires and abilities expressed by the children and young people themselves.





ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MUST **BE INVOLVED** AND **HAVE A SAY** IN SPORTING COMMUNITIES

In sporting communities children and young people must be heard, involved and have influence. They must be recognized as experts in their own lives, and it is important that they are involved in decisions that concern them. By involving them and giving them a say in matters, sport also allows children and young people to participate in the democratic processes that are the foundation of organized sports culture.

- Children and young people must be supported in taking responsibility, and a safe space must be created for them to voice their opinions.
- The perspectives of children and young people must be included in all aspects of organized sports culture.
- The inclusion and involvement of children and young people must always take place with a view to the age and maturity of each individual.



SPORTING COMMUNITIES MUST PROMOTE THE **WELL-BEING AND PERSONAL** DEVELOPMENT OF ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The culture within sports clubs must be based on mutual respect and a safe and developmental learning environment. This means that sports and physical activity must be appropriate to age and maturity, and that activities are organized in ways that ensure children and young people can experience both success and challenges at an appropriate level. At the same time sports must be experienced as a haven where play, joy and community take center stage.

- Training and competitions must be based on the latest principles of age-related training concepts, and activities must be organized based on an ethical code of conduct.
- There must be a focus on development rather than results. The structure of the training should ensure that any specialization among athletes only occurs, when they are mentally and physically ready for it.
- Children and young people must feel safe and comfortable in sporting communities, including their online communities. The collection and usage of data must comply with the digital rights and the protection of privacy of children and young people.



HOW SHOULD DIF'S NATIONAL VISION STATEMENT ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BE USED?

DIF's National Vision Statement on Children and Young People should function as a set of ethical guidelines for fundamental decisions and opinions on children and young people in DIF. This means that DIF's National Vision Statement on Children and Young People must be reflected in our education programs, form the basis of our guidelines and be incorporated into our policies on children and young people.

DIF's National Vision Statement on Children and Young People is intended to clarify our position and will be used in our political efforts to promote sport for children and young people in Denmark.

