

Youth Protection Policy for Euroventure

The International Baptist Convention is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of youth and expects all adults at camp to share this commitment and understand that the child's welfare is our primary concern. Any child at camp should feel safe and protected from any form of abuse which, in this policy, means any kind of neglect, non-accidental physical injury, sexual exploitation or emotional ill-treatment. At Euroventure, we care about the protection of all campers and sponsors and we wish to provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that promotes the spiritual development of each child.

Because of this, we have adopted the following policy in order to safeguard youth while at camp. For the purpose of clarification, a "camper" is a registered participant between the ages of 12-19. A "sponsor" is a registered adult age 20 or older. The Euroventure team and sponsors will take all reasonable measures to protect each camper.

Mandatory Reading of this Document

During the registration process, all sponsors must check the box that they have read and agree to these standards.

Pre-camp Training

All sponsors must attend a pre-camp training meeting online, which includes training on the protection of all campers during the week of Euroventure. Several meeting options are given, and sponsors must come to one of those meetings.

Reference Letters and Background Checks

Due to the nature of an international camp, where campers and sponsors come from many different countries, each of which has their own standard of police certificates and background checks, we require that all sponsors provide a reference letter from the pastor of their sending church. For those sponsors who are part of the U.S. college team which comes on a yearly basis, both a reference check and background check are mandatory, which is handled by our U.S. team coordinator.

2:1 Ratio

In order to protect the campers that come to Euroventure, we have a zero tolerance policy for campers to be alone with adult sponsors. We expect sponsors to obey the following policy: The ratio of sponsor to camper can never be 1:1 in a closed room.

- If a sponsor takes a group of campers out of camp for choice recreation time, the group must always consist of more than 1 camper.
- If a camper needs to speak about something personal, we will respect the right to audio privacy but not visual privacy; therefore, the camper and sponsor speak in an area where they are seen and not heard.
- Campers that need to be escorted back to camp property from the Kongresssaale (main meeting room in town) should be escorted back to camp with two adults.
- Campers and medical personnel in a 1:1 ratio are not to be together in a closed room.



Safety of Campers while outside of Camp Grounds

As camp is located in the Swiss Alps in a picturesque tourist village, it is desired that campers and sponsors should be allowed outside of camp grounds to enjoy the local surroundings. At camp, between the hours of 2pm and 6 pm, campers are permitted to leave camp with sponsors accompanying them to various activities. To facilitate this process, at the camp entrance there is a sheet where campers and sponsors sign out of camp detailing where they will be going, and upon return, campers and sponsors must sign in again. No camper is permitted to be outside camp grounds without a sponsor. For those hiking in the mountains, the sponsor will notify the camp about the route they are taking and will stick to this plan. It is desired that at least one adult going hiking has a working mobile telephone.

Because our morning and evening gatherings are outside of the Downtown Lodge (DTL) where we are staying, there is a need during these times to leave the DTL and walk to our conference hall. Campers and sponsors should travel together during these times and respect the 2:1 ratio as mentioned above. During these times, the way to the conference hall and the conference hall itself will be considered camp grounds.

Medical Personnel At Camp

The Euroventure Team provides a camp nurse during the week. This person has been certified as a nurse through their own local country. This is the minimum qualification, though in the past we have had field medics and EMTs serving in this position. The Camp Nurse is there to help with sickness and other needs on a first-aid basis only. For serious illness or medical emergencies, campers and sponsors will be sent to local doctors and hospitals for care.

Reporting of Abuse or Suspected Abuse

All abuse reports will be taken seriously. It may also be the case that at camp, campers will tell of any reports of alleged abuse they have received sometime in the past (meaning not occurring at camp). When a sponsor learns of alleged or suspected abuse, he or she will fill out a form detailing what has been spoken or witnessed. This form will then go to the Camp Director, who will in turn pass this on to the Euroventure Team, who will all read and discuss the next steps that need to be taken. On the form, the team will then fill out the action steps that have been taken. This form will then be sent to the General Secretary of the IBC for his review and advice.

Camp Director and Euroventure Team

The authority of the camp rests upon the Camp Director and the Euroventure Team during the week of camp. Any sponsors or campers that have questions or need help or assistance during the week should approach one of the team members. Any disputes between campers or between sponsors shall be mediated by the Euroventure Team, if needed.

For further questions and clarification, please write to <youthteam@ibc-churches.org>.

