

Frome Netball Club

Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy

This Policy sets out England Netball's approach to fulfilling its commitment to creating and maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment for the Children and Young People who take part in the sport of netball. England Netball and Frome Netball Club requires all Members, connected participants and Staff to abide by this Policy and all relating procedures and practice.

1. Policy Statement

Frome netball Club is committed to ensuring that all Children and Young People who take part in our activities have a safe and positive experience.

- The welfare of the Child or Young Person is paramount.
 - All Children and Young People, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation, or identity, have the right to be protected from abuse, harm, or exploitation.
 - All suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
 - All club members, coaches, officials, volunteers, and parents have a responsibility to safeguard the wellbeing of Children and Young People.
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2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All players under 18 years of age.
 - All coaches, officials, volunteers, committee members, and spectators involved in Frome Netball activities.
 - All environments in which the club operates: training, matches, tournaments, social events, trips, and online/virtual spaces.
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3. Definitions

- Child/Young Person: Anyone under the age of 18.
 - Safeguarding: Protecting Children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health and development, ensuring safe and effective care, and enabling them to grow up in a safe environment.
 - Abuse: Can include physical, sexual, emotional, neglect, bullying, exploitation, and online abuse.
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4. Recognising Abuse & Poor Practice

All members should be aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse, which may include (but are not limited to):

- Unexplained injuries, changes in behaviour, withdrawal, low self-esteem, reluctance to attend sessions, or inappropriate sexual behaviour.
 - Bullying (in person or online), discrimination, or exclusion.
 - Adults misusing their position of trust, e.g. favouritism, inappropriate communication, or exploitation.
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5. Responsibilities

- All Members: Safeguard Children by being alert, acting responsibly, and reporting concerns.
- Coaches/Volunteers:
 - Create safe, positive training and playing environments.
 - Ensure sessions are inclusive and appropriate.
 - Avoid one-to-one situations wherever possible.
 - Maintain appropriate professional boundaries.
- Parents/Guardians: Support the club's approach, communicate concerns, and encourage respectful behaviour.

- **Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO): Lucy Clark fncsafeguarding@outlook.com**
 - First point of contact for safeguarding concerns.
 - Ensure all concerns are taken seriously and dealt with promptly.
 - Record and report concerns to England Netball Safeguarding Team and/or statutory agencies as required.
 - Ensure coaches and volunteers have up-to-date DBS checks and safeguarding training.
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6. Safe Recruitment & Training

- All coaches, officials, and volunteers who work with Children must hold an enhanced DBS check.
 - Recruitment will include role descriptions, reference checks, and interviews where appropriate.
 - All relevant individuals must complete England Netball-approved safeguarding training.
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7. Code of Behaviour

- Always put the wellbeing of Children before the outcome of matches.
 - Use positive, age-appropriate communication.
 - Never engage in rough, physical, or sexually suggestive behaviour.
 - Do not develop personal or exclusive relationships with Children.
 - Avoid private or unmonitored contact (including social media and messaging).
 - Challenge inappropriate behaviour or language immediately.
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8. Reporting Concerns

- If a Child is at immediate risk of harm, dial 999.
- Concerns should be reported as soon as possible to the Club Safeguarding Officer.
- If the CSO is unavailable, concerns may be raised with the Chair, England Netball Safeguarding Team, or statutory agencies directly.
- Concerns will always be taken seriously, handled sensitively, and recorded accurately.
- Confidentiality will be maintained — information will only be shared on a “need to know” basis.

Contacts:

- Club Safeguarding Officer: Lucy Clark fncsafeguarding@outlook.com
- England Netball Safeguarding Team: besafe@englandnetball.co.uk | 01509 277911
- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000
- Childline (for under 18s): 0800 1111

9. Whistleblowing

- The club supports whistleblowing to protect Children and Young People.
- Any concerns about inappropriate behaviour by an adult in a position of trust must be reported immediately.
- Reports will be escalated to England Netball and statutory agencies if required.

10. Wellbeing & Mental Health

The club recognises that safeguarding is not only about protecting Children from abuse, but also about promoting their wellbeing. We will:

- Encourage Children to speak up and be listened to.
- Provide a supportive environment where mistakes are seen as part of learning.

- Signpost Children and families to appropriate wellbeing services (e.g. Young Minds, Childline, NSPCC).
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11. Monitoring & Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Committee and the Club Safeguarding Officer, or sooner if legislation or England Netball guidance changes.
- All members will be informed of updates.
- Compliance with this policy is a condition of membership, volunteering, or working with the club.

Up to date as of 30/08/2025