

Frome Netball Club

Adult Safeguarding Policy

1. Policy Statement

Frome Netball Club is committed to creating a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for all adult members, staff, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators.

We recognise that:

- Adults may be at risk of harm, neglect, or abuse in some circumstances.
- Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- Every adult has the right to be listened to, respected, and supported in making their own decisions.

This policy aligns with England Netball's Adult Safeguarding Policy and with the Care Act (2014).

2. Scope

This policy applies to all adult members (aged 18+), coaches, officials, volunteers, committee members, and parents/carers engaged with Frome Netball Club.

It covers safeguarding concerns that arise in netball settings, online, during travel, or at social events connected with the club.

3. Types of Abuse & Neglect

Adults may experience harm in different ways. Abuse can be a single incident or repeated, and may be carried out by someone known or a stranger.

The main categories are:

- Physical Abuse: hitting, kicking, burning, misuse of medication.
- Neglect: not receiving adequate food, support, healthcare, or assistance.

- Self-Neglect: not looking after yourself or refusing essential support.
 - Financial Abuse: theft, misuse of money or possessions, restriction of financial independence.
 - Domestic Abuse: abuse from a partner, ex-partner, or family member in the home.
 - Sexual Abuse: unwanted sexual activity, inappropriate touching, sexual exploitation.
 - Psychological/Emotional Abuse: threats, intimidation, humiliation, bullying (including online).
 - Organisational Abuse: unsafe or poor standards of care by groups or organisations.
 - Discriminatory Abuse: unfair or harmful treatment based on race, gender, disability, sexuality, age, religion, or other characteristics.
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4. Principles of Adult Safeguarding

The club will follow the six safeguarding principles set out in the Care Act:

- Empowerment – supporting adults to make their own decisions.
- Prevention – acting early to stop harm from happening.
- Proportionality – responding appropriately to the risk presented.
- Protection – supporting those in greatest need.
- Partnership – working with local services and England Netball.
- Accountability – being transparent and responsible in safeguarding practice.

We are committed to Making Safeguarding Personal – this means listening to the adult, taking their views seriously, and involving them in decisions about what happens next.

5. Mental Capacity

- Adults are presumed to have capacity to make their own decisions unless proven otherwise.

- If concerns are raised about capacity, an assessment may be required.
 - If an adult lacks capacity, they will be supported by an advocate or an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA).
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6. Responsibilities

- All Members: Look out for signs of harm, respect the rights of others, and report concerns appropriately.
 - Coaches/Volunteers/Officials: Maintain professional boundaries, avoid positions of power being misused, and create safe environments for participation.
 - Committee: Ensure safeguarding policies are implemented, reviewed, and communicated.
 - **Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO): Lucy Clark fncsafeguarding@outlook.com**
 - First point of contact for adult safeguarding concerns.
 - Record and escalate concerns to England Netball and/or local safeguarding authorities.
 - Ensure confidentiality is respected and records kept securely.
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7. Reporting Concerns

- If someone is at immediate risk of harm, call 999.
- Concerns should be reported as soon as possible to the Club Safeguarding Officer.
- If the CSO is unavailable, concerns may be directed to the Chair, England Netball Safeguarding Team, or the Local Authority Safeguarding Adults Board.
- Reports will be handled sensitively and information only shared on a “need to know” basis.
- Where possible, the adult at risk will be consulted on what they would like to happen next.

Contacts:

- Club Safeguarding Officer: **Lucy Clark** fncsafeguarding@outlook.com
 - England Netball Safeguarding Officer: 01509 277850 | besafe@englandnetball.co.uk
 - Police (emergency): 999
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8. Outcomes of Safeguarding Enquiries

Following a safeguarding concern or enquiry, outcomes may include:

- The abuse or neglect stops.
 - The adult feels safe, respected, and supported.
 - An apology or acknowledgment is made.
 - Criminal investigation if a crime has been committed.
 - Clear information on how to access future help and support.
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9. Whistleblowing

The club supports whistleblowing in order to protect adults at risk. Any concerns about the behaviour of a member, volunteer, coach, or official must be reported. No one will face negative consequences for raising genuine safeguarding concerns.

10. Monitoring & Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Club Committee and the Club Safeguarding Officer, or earlier if new legislation or England Netball guidance is introduced.

Up to date as of 30/08/2025