

# **Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Netball Policy and Procedures**

## **Rationale**

Marine Netball Club is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for all young people to play netball. It accepts its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all young people and protect them from poor practice, abuse and bullying.

It is vital that it is recognised that some children and young people may be more vulnerable than others of a similar age and that some regrettably may encounter extra barriers due to their race, gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, social background and culture.

Marine Netball Club Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Netball Policy and Procedures apply to all individuals involved, paid or in a voluntary capacity. Everyone has a responsibility.

## **Principles**

1. Anyone under the age of 18 will be considered a child or young person in relation to Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Netball Policy and Procedures.
2. The safety and welfare of all young people is paramount.
3. All young people, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, social status or sexual orientation have the right to be protected from abuse.
4. The rights, dignity and worth of all young people should always be respected.
5. All allegations, complaints of poor practice and alleged breaches of England Netball Codes of Conduct will be taken seriously and responded to quickly in line with the England Netball Policy and Procedures.
6. It is the responsibility of safeguarding and child protection experts to determine whether abuse has taken place but it is everyone's responsibility in netball to act appropriately and report concerns.
7. Marine Netball Club recognises the role and responsibilities of the statutory agencies safeguarding children and young people and is committed to complying with the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

8. Working in partnership with parents, carers and the young people themselves is essential for the safeguarding and protection of young people.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

Marine Netball Club have:

1. Appointed a Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO), in line with the England Netball Recruitment Guidelines and Volunteer Role Description to manage safeguarding and child protection.
2. Adopted and implemented the England Netball Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Netball Policy and Procedures and Guidelines.
3. Ensured and will continue to ensure that all committee members and club members are aware of their responsibility in Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Netball.
4. Supported and will continue to support their members through accessing education and training opportunities in relation to the Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Netball Policy.
5. Worked and will continue to work in partnership with parents/carers and young people within the Club.
6. Implemented a policy of Best Practice in accordance with England Netball.
7. Ensured and will continue to ensure that all relevant members who have regular supervisory contact with young people are safely recruited according to EN guidelines which includes the completion of an Enhanced DBS disclosure with England Netball.

## **Prohibited Practice and consequences of inappropriate action**

Coaches, volunteers, umpires or managers must never:

1. Spend time alone with young people away from others.
2. Take young people to their home where they will be alone with them.
3. Invite or allow young people to stay with them at their home.
4. Transport young people in your car alone.

If it should arise that such situations are avoidable, they should only take place with the full consent of the Chair/CSO and person with parental responsibility for the young person.

In exceptional circumstances where a coach or volunteer cannot obtain the consent and it is in the welfare of interest of the young person then the preceding paragraph does not need to be followed. If this occurs the adult must record the occurrence with the CSO/Chair.

5. Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games with young people.
6. Share a room with a young person unless the individual is the parent/guardian.
7. Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate physical touching or sexual contact or behaviour.
8. Use or allow young people to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
9. Make sexually suggestive comments to a young person, even in fun.
10. Allow allegations made by a young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
11. Do things of a personal nature for young people that they can do for themselves, unless you have been requested to do so by the parents/carer. It is recognised that some young people will always need help with things such as lace tying and it is also recognised that this does not preclude anyone attending to an injured/ill young person or rendering first aid.

12. Depart the netball club or agreed rendezvous point until the safe dispersal of all young people is complete.
13. Cause an individual to lose self-esteem by embarrassing, humiliating or undermining the individual.
14. Treat some young people more favourably than others.
15. Agree to meet a young person on their own on a one to one basis.
16. Engage in personal correspondence via email, in writing or by social media to young people without following the Club's protocol.

Marine Netball Club ensure that all adults working with young people follow the good practice guidelines 'Be Safe' made available by England Netball. This includes the positive communication guidance 'Good Practice Guide to Electronic Communication with young people' Marine Netball Club ensure that all young people receive a 'Be Safe' guide upon joining.

## **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)**

All adults who have regular supervisory contact with young people and/ or are in regulated activity complete their DBS Enhanced Disclosure Application Form within 8 weeks of their appointment. These adults are supervised with young people at all times whilst the club waits for the outcome of this disclosure.

DBS disclosures are conducted through England Netball who have jurisdiction to deal with any matter arising from any such disclosure.

## **Behaviour Concerns**

If there is a concern regarding the behaviour of an adult towards a young person or young person to young person, then this concern will be shared with the Marine Netball Club's CSO and/or the England Netball Lead Child Protection Officer. All information received and discussed will be treated in confidence in accordance with and only shared with those individuals who will be able to manage and resolve the situation. On occasions, it may be necessary to seek advice, or inform the statutory agencies e.g. The Police or Children's Services (formerly Social Services).

All concerns will be taken seriously and managed accordingly within the Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Netball Policy and Procedures.

## **Positions of Trust**

1. All adults who work with children/young people are in a position of trust which has been invested in them by the parents, the sport and the child/ young person. This relationship can be described as one in which the adult is in a position of power and influence by virtue of their position. Sexual intercourse or touching by an adult with a child under the age of 16 years is unlawful, even where there is apparent consent from the child. A consensual sexual relationship between an adult in a position of trust within the netball setting and a child over 16 years of age is contrary to the Policy and Procedures for Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Netball.
2. Adults must not encourage a physical or emotionally dependant relationship to develop between the person in a position of trust and the young person in their care.
3. Marine Netball Club have a duty to raise concerns about the behaviour of coaches, umpires, volunteers, administrators and professional staff which may be harmful to the child/children, young people in their care, without prejudice to their own position.