



Safeguarding Policy

Trailblazers

Trailblazers Netball Club is dedicated to making netball a safe and fun place for everyone. The welfare of Children and Young People is paramount.

This Policy sets out Trailblazers 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.

Trailblazers require all staff, volunteers, coaches, clubs and other netball associations abide by this Policy and all relating procedures and practice. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

This policy applies to all members of Trailblazers. This policy also applies to all players, coaches, Volunteers, Members, contacted participants and anyone carrying out recognised and authorised netball activity.

This policy operates in conjunction with the England Netball Safeguarding Children and Young People in Netball Policy; <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/governance/>

- We do not tolerate abuse or poor practice
- We listen to children
- We take concerns seriously
- We treat everyone with respect regardless of age, sex, gender, race, disability, sexuality or sexual orientation, religion
- We have processes for investigating concerns and managing risks
- We have a lead safeguarding officer
- Netball clubs have a volunteer safeguarding or welfare officer
- We recruit staff and volunteers safely
- We record and report concerns promptly, and treat them confidentially (except when necessary to share in order to protect children and promote their welfare)
- We share information about safeguarding with clubs, players and parents/carers
- We create and maintain a caring culture in our organisation and our clubs where people are free to speak out
- Breaches of this policy may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the EN Safeguarding Disciplinary Regulations

What is Abuse?

Abuse is a term used to describe the ways in which Children and Young People may be harmed by others.

The four recognised types of abuse are (with examples);



- **Physical** – intentional harm, hitting, slapping, kicking, shaking, poisoning, burning, drowning
- **Neglect** – denied food, education, nurture, stimulation, medication
- **Sexual** – sexual touching, sexual activity, making child perform acts on another (inc. none contact)
- **Emotional** – Humiliating, criticising threatening, blaming, gaslighting, ignoring, not showing emotion.

Though not included in the 4 main categories of abuse; others to consider are:

Fabricated or Induced illness – when a parent or carer exaggerates or deliberately causes symptoms of illness in the child. The parent or carer tries to convince doctors that the child is ill, or that their condition is worse than it really is.

Female Genital Mutilation – a rare form of abuse affecting some communities more than others (such as some African and Asian cultures). Usually involving young girls being taken to their (or their parents') home country to have their genitals damaged in a number of ways. Often this results in urinary, ante-natal or other issues in later life. It has no basis in religion.

Domestic Violence – children are now considered victims of domestic violence in their own right (Domestic Abuse Act 2022) even if not physically harmed. The long term affects of parental domestic abuse can be significant on children.

Criminal or sexual exploitation – Young People tricked or coerced into selling drugs or other commodities or exploited sexually for money.

Cyber Bullying – cyberbullying occurs when someone repeatedly makes fun of another person online or repeatedly picks on another person through emails or text messages or uses online forums (including social media) with the intention of harming, damaging, humiliating or isolating another person. It can be used to carry out many different types of bullying (such as racist bullying, homophobic bullying, or bullying related to special educational needs and disabilities) but instead of the perpetrator carrying out the bullying face-to-face, they use technology as a means to do it.

Forced marriage – children married, sometimes before the legal age in the UK to someone of their parent/carer's choosing and against their will.

Radicalisation – the process whereby someone influences a Child or Young Person to an extremist ideology with terrorist or violent intent. Extreme or radical opinions are allowed but if accompanied with violent intentions or actions it should be reported to police or Safeguarding agencies.

Abuse can happen inside and outside the home, but wherever it happens, everyone has a responsibility to act to protect the Child from harm. Abuse results in harm to Young People's physical, mental or emotional health and/or development. It can be committed by an adult or another Child or Young Person and be by intentional act or a failure to act.

Familiarising yourself with these forms of abuse and considering what you see and hear may be a sign that there is cause for concern, will help you make assessment of whether you need to report your concern.

If you have any concerns, report them. Specially trained individuals will determine the support and action required. In the world of sport, there are numerous occasions when abuse may occur, intentionally or unintentionally.



Roles and Responsibilities

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and you should respond to any safeguarding concern you become aware of.

Trailblazers fulfils its Safeguarding responsibilities by ensuring all Netball Coaches are appropriately trained and by supporting netball activity to be delivered appropriately through the provision of advice and guidance to all those in netball.

Trailblazers has an appointed Lead Safeguarding Officer, who is responsible for formulating the organisation's approach to Safeguarding; providing advice, guidance and resources to ensure a consistent level of awareness of Safeguarding, and, who is the point of contact for all concerns raised, and to liaise with statutory agencies and other partners.

All Trailblazers members who carry out regulated activity have up to date DBS checks and are cleared to work with Young People.

Duty of Care

Clubs and organisations delivering netball activity have a responsibility to take all reasonable care for the safety of the Young People involved with their event. The person in charge of the Child or Young Person acts "in loco parentis" and is expected to act as a reasonably prudent parent would.

They need to consider the reasonable steps which should be taken to show they have acted to a reasonable standard of care. This should include:

- Adopting the policies and procedures of Trailblazers into the Club constitution;
- Ensuring that every member of the Club and their parent/carer is aware of who the Club Safeguarding Officer is;
- Ensuring Club and England Netball policies relating to safeguarding are readily available to Members.
- Ensuring relevant training is provided and kept up to date for Club Safeguarding Officers, coaches and members of the Club; and ensuring everyone knows how to use the Reporting a Concern process

There should also be:

- A current register of attendees;
- A current register of contact details, including emergency contacts;
- Confidentially retained records of any medical conditions, allergies, special needs etc for all individuals;
- First aid provision available at all times, both at the club and when off site, and a trained First Aider in attendance;
- Appropriate personnel in place, appointed in accordance with safe recruitment and selection Procedures
- Current risk assessments are carried out for the premises and activities.

Clubs should ensure that the Young People in their care only take part in recognised and authorised and appropriately insured activities with suitably qualified instructors/coaches.



Coaches have a duty of care to ensure that the activities they organise are appropriate to the capabilities of each Young Person in their care. They should adhere to the standards set for them by the qualifications they have achieved and not seek to operate at a level which is beyond their current qualification. (for example, a Level 1 coach taking a session unsupervised by a Level 2 coach).

Wellbeing

Many concerns about the welfare of Young People are about their general health and happiness, their Wellbeing, rather than about issues of potential abuse. The evidence our Safeguarding case management process shows is that these issues are significantly more frequent than concerns about abuse. Trailblazers believe that sport offers many positives in the lives of its young participants and that caring about the welfare of Young People is part of the Safeguarding duty which we all have. People in Positions of Trust can be a great influence in the lives of Young People and so have the potential to notice changes, be available to talk to and to offer advice.

Young People may show signs of behaviour which cause you concern. We recognise that not all issues will be assessed or taken up by Children's Social Services as they do not meet their threshold of 'significant harm' and that local support may be the most effective way of helping the Young Person. We can assist with identifying and supporting the Young Person by raising levels of awareness and acting as a sign posting service to resources and organisations which provide support for parent's/carers or for the Young People directly. More information on health and wellbeing can be found on the England Netball website; <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/>

Contact

If you believe a Child or Young Person is in danger or at imminent risk of harm, contact the Police and other relevant emergency services by calling 999.

Report a concern to England Netball via besafe@englandnetball.co.uk or 01509 277911

NSPCC are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year on 0800 800 5000