

HERITAGE NETBALL LEAGUE

Established 1997

Affiliated to England Netball and Bedfordshire County Netball Association



Safeguarding Young People & Adults at Risk Statement

Note:

- The term 'young person/people' describes any person under the age of 18.
- The term 'adult at risk' refers to someone over 18 years old who: has care and support needs, is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect and as a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.
- References to 'parents' should be read as parents and carers inclusively.

Our statement

The Heritage Netball League acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people and adults at risk and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and England Netball requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of young people and adults at risk are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation and socio-economic background, all children and adults at risk:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport in the Heritage Netball League in a safe environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in the Heritage Netball League or outside of the activity

We acknowledge that some young people and adults at risk, including those disabled or from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare. Some adults at risk are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.

Our Policy

What we'll do

As part of our safeguarding policy we will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of young people and adults at risk
- value, listen to and respect young people and adults at risk
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation
- adopt safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and codes of conduct
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to young people and adults at risk
- provide effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support,

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training and quality assurance measures so that all staff and volunteers know about our policies, procedures and behaviour codes and follow them confidently and competently

- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents or concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual(s) who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- record and store information securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- prevent the employment or deployment of unsuitable individuals by recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- appoint a Safeguarding Officer for young people and adults at risk
- share information about safeguarding and good practice with young people and their parents and adults at risk
- make sure that young people, their parents and adults at risk know where to go for help if they have a concern
- Ensure netball events, member Clubs and netball teams implement similar policies.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Heritage Netball League. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal or exclusion from the organisation.

The Heritage Netball League will refer at all times to the England Netball Safeguarding Young People in Netball Policy (Jan 2026) and Safeguarding Adults In Netball Policy (Jan 2026).

What we expect from our Clubs/Organisations

Clubs and organisations delivering netball activity have a responsibility to take all reasonable care for the safety of all adults and young people (including scorers and umpires) involved with their event. The person in charge of a child or young person acts “in loco parentis” and is expected to act as a reasonably prudent parent would.

They need to consider 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 England Netball into the Club constitution;
- Ensuring that every member of the Club and any parent/carers are aware of who the Club Safeguarding Officer is;
- Ensuring Club and England Netball policies relating to safeguarding are readily available to Members.
- Familiarisation with England Netball’s Safeguarding Young People in Netball and Safeguarding Adults in Netball Policies;
- 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

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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.

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- as required by the local safeguarding partnership, UK Sport and/or home country sports councils and England Netball
- as a result of any other significant change or event

In a safeguarding emergency, where anyone is at immediate risk of harm, call 999.

Our Safeguarding Officer:

Name:	Jess Wallis
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