



BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY NETBALL ASSOCIATION

DUTY OF CARE POLICY STATEMENT

Bedfordshire County Netball (henceforth known as the County) has a duty of care to safeguard all involved in the County from harm. All involved have a right to protection, and the needs of participants who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. The County will ensure the safety and protection of all involved in the County through adherence to the Child Protection guidelines adopted by the County.

GOOD PRACTICE & GUIDELINES

Good practice means:

- Always working in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication with no secrets)
- Treating all young people/disabled adults equally, and with respect and dignity
- Always putting the welfare of each young person first, before winning or achieving goals
- Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with players (e.g. it is not appropriate for staff or volunteers to have an intimate relationship with a child or to share a room with them)
- Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust which empowers children to share in the decision-making process
- Making sport fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play
- Ensuring that if any form of manual/physical support is required, it should be provided openly and according to guidelines provided by the EN Duty of Care Guidelines (see EN website). Care is needed, as it is difficult to maintain hand positions when the child is constantly moving. Young people should always be consulted and their agreement gained.
- Keeping up to date with technical skills, qualifications and insurance in sport
- Being an excellent role model - this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol in the company of young people or using inappropriate language.
- Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- Recognising the developmental needs and capacity of young people and disabled adults - avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing them against their will
- Securing parental consent in writing to act in loco parentis, if the need arises to administer emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment
- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF VIDEO, MOBILE PHONE, ZOOM OR CLOSE RANGE PHOTOGRAPHY.

The England Netball Duty of Care Guidelines recommend that all Clubs or Teams should record the name and address of any spectator who wishes to use video, mobile phone, zoom or close range photography to record the activities at a Netball event. In line with this recommendation the County require that any person wishing to engage in any video, mobile phone, zoom or close range photography should register their details with the organisers on the day of an event, prior to carrying out any such photography. The County reserve the right to decline entry into any event to any person unable to meet or abide by these conditions. If you are concerned about any photography taking place at any County event please contact the event organisers who will be pleased to discuss the matter with you.

ACTION IF THERE ARE ANY CONCERNS

It is not the responsibility of anyone working in the County, in a paid or unpaid capacity to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns by reporting these to the appropriate Officer within the County. If anyone has any reason to suspect a child is being abused they MUST immediately, in the first instance contact the County Chair, on Gloria.keech@ntlworld.com .

Any information will be treated with the strictest confidence.