



# BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY NETBALL ASSOCIATION

## SAFEGUARDING & PROTECTION POLICY

The County when making provision for children and young people must ensure that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All officials and volunteers involved in sport have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer. Volunteers are not trained to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred, however, they should be aware of their responsibility to report concerns if they arise

## GOOD PRACTICE & GUIDELINES

### PHYSICAL CONTACT

Many sports require a degree of physical contact between Coaches, Volunteers and children or young people.

- Coaches should not put themselves in a situation where they are alone with a child
- Volunteers should never be left alone with a child.
- Coaches and volunteers should be aware of their responsibilities regarding the welfare of children and the need to protect themselves from allegations of abuse or poor practice.

### DISCIPLINE

When verbal discipline is used it will be with the clear intention of teaching or reinforcing appropriate behaviour. It must not be used impulsively, to gain power, or to embarrass or humiliate a child/young person. Discipline should be used only to:

- Develop a sense of responsibility for behaviour
- Develop respect for others and their property
- Reinforce the rules or values of the sport
- Reinforce positive behaviour or attitudes
- Reinforce awareness of health and safety aspects of the activity

### COLLECTION OF CHILDREN

The County cannot take responsibility for the collection of children after an event, this responsibility rests with Coaches/buddies/parents/guardians. However, at any County organised event no child will be left unattended until collected by a parent/guardian.

## **COACH/VOLUNTEER RATIOS**

Coach/volunteer participant ratios are based on the age of the children involved; the degree of risk the activity involves, and whether there are any disability needs. The lower the age of the participants, the greater the need for supervision. All activities follow the guidelines provided by England Netball, which state that the recommended ratio is 1 adult to 10 children. Organisers of events should refer to England Netball guidelines when arranging County events.

## **CHANGING ROOMS**

- When children and young people use changing rooms, they should be supervised by a minimum two adults.
- Adults should not change or shower at the same time using the same facilities as children and young people.
- For mixed gender activities, separate facilities must be made available for boys and girls.
- If a child feels uncomfortable changing or showering in public, no pressure should be placed on them to do so. Instead, they should be encouraged to shower or change at home
- If children with disabilities require use of changing facilities, the County will ensure that they and their carers are involved in deciding what assistance if any is required.

## **ADDITIONAL CHILD PROTECTION CONTACTS**

If you would like more information about Child Protection issues/training courses please see contacts below:

- EN Safeguarding Enquiries : Email [safeguarding@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@englandnetball.co.uk) or [besafe@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:besafe@englandnetball.co.uk)
- Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU): [www.thecpsu.org.uk](http://www.thecpsu.org.uk) 0116 234 7278/7280
- NSPCC: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)
- Help for children and young people - ChildLine 0800 1111 Help for adults - Help and Advice - 0808 800 5000