

# **Dorchester Netball Club Child Protection Policy**

Agreed by TM and PE Sept 2016  
Due for review Sept 2017

## **Rationale**

Dorchester Netball Club is required, as part of its statutory responsibility, to comply with relevant legislation for safeguarding and protecting young people in general.

Dorchester 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.

## **Principles**

- 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.  
The safety and welfare of all young people is paramount.
- 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.
- The rights, dignity and worth of all young people should always be respected.
- All allegations, complaints of poor practice and alleged breaches of Dorchester Netball Club Codes of Conduct will be taken seriously and responded to quickly in line with the Dorchester Netball Club Policy and Procedures.
- It is the responsibility of safeguarding and child protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place but it is everyone's responsibility in netball to act appropriately and report concerns.
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and the young people themselves is essential for the safeguarding and protection of young people.

## **Aims**

Dorchester Netball Club will:

- provide a safe environment for all its members
- select, train and supervise volunteers to raise awareness of the need to provide an appropriate duty of care and promote the implementation of its policies and procedures.
- respect the rights, wishes and feelings of young people
- respond to any allegations or suspicions of abuse or poor practice swiftly and appropriately
- have disciplinary and appeals procedures in place to deal with incidences of poor practice

- require coaches, umpires and volunteers to sign up to a code of conduct to safeguard the welfare of young people and protect themselves from false allegations.

## **Guidance and Legislation**

The practices and procedures within this policy and documentation are based on the principles contained within UK and International legislation and government guidance and have been designed to complement Local Safeguarding Children Boards procedures and take the following into consideration:

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004.
- The Protection of Children Act 1999.
- The Police Act.
- Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.
- The Data Protection Act 1994 and 1998.
- “Caring for the Young and Vulnerable” - Home Office guidance for preventing the Abuse of Trust 1999.
- ‘What to do if you are worried a child is being abused’ - DOH 2003.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010.
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Human Rights Act 1998.
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

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

Coaches, volunteers, umpires or managers *must never*:

- Spend time alone with young people away from others.
- Take young people to your home where they will be alone with you.
- Invite or allow young people to stay with you at your home.
- Transport young people in your car alone, without the consent of the parent. The child or young person must sit in the back seat of the car.
- If it should arise that such situations are unavoidable they should only take place with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge in the club and/or a person with parental responsibility for the young person. In exceptional circumstances where a coach, manager or volunteer cannot obtain the consent of someone in charge in the Club and/or person with parental responsibility for the young person then if it is in the welfare interest of the young person, preceding paragraph does not have to be followed. If this occurs the adult must record the occurrence with the club’s Safeguarding Officer.
- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games with young people.
- Share a room with a young person unless the individual is the parent/guardian.
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate physical touching or sexual contact or behaviour.
- Use or allow young people to use inappropriate language

- unchallenged.
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a young person, even in fun.
  - Allow allegations made by a young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
  - 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.
  - Depart the netball club or agreed rendez-vous point until the safe dispersal of all young people is complete.
  - Cause an individual to lose self esteem by embarrassing, humiliating or undermining the individual.
  - Treat some young people more favourably than others
  - Agree to meet a young person on their own on a one to one basis.
  - All adults working with young people must 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'

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

All adults who have regular supervisory contact with young people will be subject to a DBS check.

### **Whistleblowing**

- Whistle-blowing is an early warning system. It is about revealing and raising concerns over misconduct or malpractice within an organisation or within an independent structure associated with it.
- If there is a concern with regard to the behaviour of an adult towards a young person or young person to young person, it is important that you share your concerns with the Club Safeguarding Officer.
- All information received and discussed will be treated in confidence and only shared with those individuals who will be able to manage and resolve the situation. On occasion it may be necessary to seek advice, or inform the statutory agencies e.g. The Police or Children's 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**

- 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.

- In the sport of netball most adults in a position of trust recognise that there are certain boundaries between the coach/ official/ volunteer and the player which must not be crossed in terms of the relationship with the young player. The relationship, in essence, is no different to that between a teacher and the young people in their care, in relation to the abuse of trust.
- 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.
- All those within the organisation 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.

### **Getting Help**

- Further information or advice relating to this policy is available from the Dorchester Netball Club Child Protection Officer, Pip Eversden, who can be contacted on 01305 250304 or via Foice@aol.com.
- Copies of related policies and supporting information is available on the following website: [www.englandnetball.co.uk](http://www.englandnetball.co.uk)
- The Single Point of Contact for safeguarding concerns for Dorset Children's Services is 01202 228866.