

Safeguarding and Young Players playing in the Tyne and Wear County Adult League

The England Netball Safeguarding Policy sets out very clearly **what Clubs with young players are expected to do in their Club training setting**. Just to confirm **ALL responsibility for young players when at club training sessions rests with the Club**. Please ensure you are fully abiding by and meeting the requirements of the England Netball safeguarding policy. By becoming a member of England Netball you are agreeing to abide by their codes of conduct and if you breach these then you may be **subject to disciplinary action as a Club or an Individual**.

Tyne and Wear County Netball Association allow players aged 14 or over at the start of the relevant season to participate in their adult county league (see county league rules for exact details). In order to ensure that the administration involved does not stop clubs and young players from participating but at the same time ensures the safety and welfare of young players the following are the minimum requirements for teams containing young players at county league matches.

For clarity these requirements apply to:

- a team with young players whether those young players take the court or remain on the bench.
- any young person who is acting in an official capacity for the team at a match – for example coaching or scoring

These requirements are also a minimum and it is recommended that each Club considers their circumstances and those of their young players and adds to these as appropriate.

Finally, to be absolutely clear, if an issue arises during a match involving a young player, then **ALL** the responsibility for the safety and welfare of that young player ultimately **rests with the Club and specifically with the person in attendance in a safeguarding capacity on behalf of the Club**. It **DOES NOT** rest with the Umpires or the County Committee.

Minimum Requirements and Recommendations

Even though a young player (under 18) may be of age (14 or over) to play in the adult league the relevant club officials, coach, safeguarding officer, parent **MUST** ensure that they have assessed the young player and that they are satisfied they are mature physically and emotionally and skilled enough to take part in an adult league before naming them in a squad.

Every team **MUST** have a person in the **role of Safeguarding Lead at all matches** involving one or more young players. This may be the Coach or someone in attendance along with the Coach. **OR** they must have a parent or guardian of **each young player, who is present** for the full duration of the match.

If one person is undertaking the Safeguarding Lead role at a match it is **recommended** that they make themselves known to the Umpires so they can alert them in the event of an issue arising. It is also **recommended** that teams consisting mainly of young players (4 or more) are accompanied by a non-playing Safeguarding Lead who is court side and can observe and respond to any issues as they arise.

The Safeguarding Lead for the team **MUST** ensure they are at the venue for the first young player arriving and the last young player leaving. It is the responsibility of the Safeguarding Lead to ensure that the young players are supervised throughout their time at the venue and until they are collected by the parent or person expected.

It is **recommended** that anyone undertaking the Safeguarding Lead role has been **DBS** checked. For the purposes of the adult county league a relevant work-related DBS is acceptable, for example from one of the following professions – Police Officer, Teacher, Social Worker, Child Minder, Nursery Worker or relevant child related NHS role. This is a minimum recommendation and **each Club must make their own assessment of the risk** in the event that they do not undertake their own DBS checks via England Netball. Note that any disciplinary action arising as a result of an issue involving a young player will be taken against the Club or the Individuals of the Club involved. Also note that some roles such as Level 2 Coaches will require specific DBS certifications for their award to be valid.

Anyone undertaking the Safeguarding Lead role at a match **MUST** have completed **training in Safeguarding** of young people. For the purposes of the adult county league a work-related course is acceptable for example from one of the following professions – Police Officer, Teacher, Social Worker, Child Minder, Nursery Worker or relevant child related NHS role. This is a minimum recommendation and **each Club must make their own assessment of the risk** in the event that they choose not to send their members on England Netball Safeguarding Courses. Note that some roles such as Level 2 Coaches will require attendance on specific safeguarding courses for their award to be valid.

For anyone needing more guidance on DBS and Safeguarding policies or training please contact Maxine Cutmore our England Netball NDO on Maxine.Cutmore@englandnetball.co.uk.

Each team **MUST** have a basic first aid kit with them and it is **recommended** that someone with some basic first aid knowledge is present. This may be a parent, for example a doctor, nurse or physio. In the event of an injury the Safeguarding Lead should complete an Accident Report Form (available on the England Netball website) and also the venue's accident log book. Failure to do this may negate any insurance claim to England Netball at a later date.

Just to clarify again that these are the minimum requirements we expect to see at matches in our county adult league involving young players. Clubs who do not meet these requirements may be subject to disciplinary action which could include having their teams removed from the adult league.

TWCNA
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