

Wallingford Netball Club Safeguarding Policy

Last Reviewed: 1 Nov 25



Policy Statement

1. Wallingford Netball Club is committed to creating and maintaining a safe, positive environment for **all players**. In line with England Netball's (EN) [Safeguarding Young People in Netball Policy](#), we specifically recognise our duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of all young people involved in our club. We will take all reasonable steps to protect them from abuse, harm or neglect, always acting in their best interests.

Purpose of the Policy

2. At Wallingford Netball Club we pledge to create and maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for the young people who take part in netball through our commitment to:

- a. Value, listen to and respect them.
- b. Comply with EN Safeguarding policy, procedures and minimum operating standards.
- b. Ensure all coaches, staff, volunteers, parents/carers and players understand their responsibilities under EN's Safeguarding framework.
- c. Provide clear procedures for reporting and responding to safeguarding concerns in compliance with EN.
- d. Promote a culture where safeguarding is central, open and transparent.

Scope

3. This policy applies to:
 - a. All children and young people under 18 participating in club activities.
 - b. All coaches, team managers, officials, committee members, volunteers and helpers involved with under 18 activities.
 - c. Parents, guardians, carers, and any others present at club events.

England Netball Definitions

4. This policy adopts EN's Safeguarding definitions. In particular:
 - a. A child / young person is defined in law and by EN as anyone under the age of 18.
 - b. We adopt definitions of abuse, neglect, bullying and harassment in line with EN's [Guidance for Recognising, Responding to & Preventing Abuse](#).

c. We adopt definitions of poor practice in line with EN's [guidance for Recognising, Responding to & Preventing Poor Practice](#).

Safeguarding Roles, Training & DBS Checks

5. Wallingford Netball will appoint a [Club Safeguarding Officer](#) to fulfil the roles and responsibilities required by EN. The appointed person will be an EN member, be suitably trained, have an enhanced DBS check via EN and will not be the Club Chair or Head Coach.

6. All coaches, volunteers in [regulated activity](#), and staff working with under 18s will have an in-date enhanced DBS check via EN, renewed every three years.

7. All required personnel will complete [relevant safeguarding training](#) required by EN.

8. A summary of these requirements by role is provided at appendix 1.

Coaching Qualifications, Supervision and Physical Contact

9. Coaches of under 18s will hold a Level 2 or higher qualification to lead sessions and will follow the EN [guidance on coach and adult supervision ratios](#). Qualified Level 1 coaches may coach independently under the indirect supervision of the Level 2 coach if circumstances require it (e.g. during Level 2 coach sickness or holiday) subject to them holding the necessary DBS check, safeguarding training and public liability insurance. A suitably qualified first aider must also be present at the training.

10. Coaches will follow the EN guidance on [physical contact and young people](#). In line with this guidance coaches will seek to explain the nature and reason for the physical contact in reinforcing a skill or coaching point to the child and should ask for the young person's permission unless the situation is an emergency.

Safer Recruitment

11. We will take all reasonable steps to recruit and select volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made, in line with EN [guidance for Safer recruitment of volunteers](#).

Codes of Conduct

12. All staff, volunteers, players, and parents associated with Wallingford Netball Club must adhere to EN's [Codes of Conduct](#). We expect the highest standards of conduct at all times so that all involved can enjoy the game, achieve and have fun. We must remind all members that failure to follow the codes of conduct could result in action taken against them either informally or under EN's [Disciplinary Regulations](#).

Photography, Media & Social Media

13. Wallingford Netball Club follows EN [guidance for taking and using photos and recorded images of young people](#). We will ask parents/carers for consent for images or videos to be taken, explaining how they would be intended to be used by the club. **This consent will be obtained upon registration via [photo permissions in the 'info'](#)**

section of the player's profile on TEAMO; parents should ensure that their preference is accurately recorded. We may also seek consent for specific purposes/events via other means such as group chat or email as required. We will ensure that any images used by us reflect the positive nature of young people's involvement in netball, are appropriate and not open to obvious misinterpretation or misuse. We will ensure that any images published by us (e.g. on our website), do not contain any personally identifying details.

14. **Requests to photograph/film training or club activities** e.g. for exam/GCSE purposes should be made in writing to the relevant coach who will pass the request to the Club Safeguarding Officer. The requestor will be required to complete a registration form detailing how images will be used and undertaking to use the images in an appropriate manner. Requests for filming league matches for GCSE/exam purposes should be made in line with [Oxfordshire Netball League rules](#). Should anyone be concerned about the inappropriate use of any photographic or filming material they should inform the Club Safeguarding Officer.

15. In line with EN's [Social Media Policy](#), Wallingford Netball Club will seek to use Social Media (including messaging and apps (TEAMO)) to promote our club's achievements and enhance communication and participation. Our members must use social media in an acceptable manner which ensures the safety and wellbeing of everyone in netball when using the internet, social media, or mobile devices. We will not tolerate anyone who uses social media, either intentionally or by association, to insult, bully or create a risk to any member's personal safety.

16. No coach, volunteer or person in a position of trust at Wallingford Netball Club will ever message or email anyone under the age of 18 directly. They will not request or accept to 'follow' or 'friend' anyone under the age of 18 on social media with whom they are associated in any capacity through Wallingford Netball. Club WhatsApp groups created to administer teams with players aged 15 and below will only include parents/carers who will receive communications on behalf of their young person. For older young people (16 – 17 years), parents/carers will be added to squad/team WhatsApp groups and it will be their decision if they also allow their young person to be added to the group (they must also remain a member of the group). In all cases, any contact with 18s by a person in a position of trust at Wallingford Netball, must include the parent/carer.

Recognising & Responding to Concerns

17. **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.** All players, parents and volunteers should know how to respond to any safeguarding concern they become aware of. In support of this, we encourage all volunteers/parents/members over 18 to complete [free online safeguarding in sport courses](#). EN also provides [examples of concerns and guidance on what to do](#).

18. Wallingford Netball Club's appointed **Club Safeguarding Officer** is the first POC for Safeguarding advice or concerns. They will ensure that all concerns are handled sensitively, recorded and reported in line with EN's [Reporting a concern](#) process. They will maintain confidentiality and only share information on a 'need to know' basis.

Wallingford Netball Club Safeguarding Officer

Name: Gail Cowen

Email: wncsafeguarding@outlook.com

19. Alternatively, the England Netball Safeguarding team can be contacted by anyone:

England Netball Safeguarding Team

Online webform: [Report a Safeguarding Concern - England Netball](#)
Via email: besafe@englandnetball.co.uk
Or phone: 01509 277911

20. **If you believe a Child or Young Person is in danger or at imminent risk of harm, contact the Police and other relevant emergency services by calling 999.**

21. [Childline](#) is available online or by calling 0800 1111 for advice at any time.

22. **Adult's at Risk:** Wallingford Netball Club adopts the EN [Safeguarding Adults at Risk in Netball Policy](#). The above POC's should also be contacted where there is concern for an Adult at Risk.

Monitoring, Review & Compliance

23. Wallingford Netball Club will maintain a register of qualifications, DBS checks and training, ensuring renewal in line with England Netball requirements.

24. This policy will be reviewed annually, or as required by updates to overarching England Netball policies.

EN Supporting Documents, Policies & Further Guidance

EN Safeguarding Homepage: [EN I Safeguarding](#)
All safeguarding related policies/guidance: [EN I Safeguarding policies guidance](#)

For Children and young people: [EN I I'm a Child or Young Person](#)

For Parents: [EN I I'm a netball Parent or Carer](#)

For Coaches: [EN I I'm a netball Coach](#)

Reporting a concern: [EN I I want to report a Safeguarding Concern](#)

DBS - safer recruitment, DBS checks: [EN I DBS](#)

Safeguarding training (incl free courses): [EN I Training and Education](#)

External sources of support: [EN I Useful websites external support & advice](#)

(Includes: general safeguarding, wellbeing and mental health, neurodiversity, domestic abuse, sexual offending, financial/legal/other issues).

Appendix: Safeguarding Training, DBS and Requirements by Role



ALL Volunteers

MANDATORY: Read EN policies *within 1 month* of taking up position:

[Safeguarding Policies and Documents - EN knowledge Centre - England Netball Knowledge Centre](#).

Especially:

- [Safeguarding Young People and Safeguarding Adults in Netball](#)
- Diversity & Belonging - [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policies and Guidance](#)

RECOMMENDED COURSES:

[High Speed Training course - Safeguarding In Sport](#) 2 hours, online – Free

[Open University – Safeguarding in Sport Course](#) 90 minutes & 12 hour courses - Free

Club Safeguarding Officer (and anyone involved in recruiting people to work with children, event management roles especially overnight/residential involvement for U18s)

MANDATORY

Read policies as above for all volunteers

EN membership

Enhanced DBS check

[Safeguarding & Protecting Children - UK Coaching](#) *within 3 months.* costs £44*, then;
[UK Coaching 'Time to Listen Workshop'](#) *within 3 months of the course above.* £44

These 2 courses need to be renewed every 3 years. (*Refresher courses available).

Coaches of children (L2 & 3, Bee Netball Leader Award & Coaches Aged 16-18)

MANDATORY

Read policies as above for all volunteers

EN membership

Enhanced DBS check

[Safeguarding & Protecting Children - UK Coaching](#) *within 3 months.* costs £44*

Course needs to be renewed every 3 years. (*Refresher courses available).

AND

[First Aid Certificate](#) (ALL COACHES): EN regards First Aid as an essential skill for netball coaches. As such, First Aid training is a mandatory pre-requisite for netball coaches entering England Netball's learning and development pathway at Level 2 or above. However, qualified coaches are responsible for maintaining their level of competency in this area.

RECOMMENDED COURSES

For Young Coaches [Safeguarding & Protecting Children \(16-18\) UK Coaching](#) 2 hours, online, £44

OTHER ROLES:

Team manager (who has regular contact with children – 4 times a month or more)

MANDATORY

Read policies as above for all volunteers

EN membership (if they are on court on a regular basis)

Enhanced DBS check

Other volunteers – this depends on:

If they are regularly involved in instructing, coaching, caring or supervising children (4 or more times a month) – they require an enhanced DBS through EN. They should also have EN membership in order that insurance covers them.

If they are asked to carry out first aid training and used by the club as a regular first aider, EN membership will cover them for insurance.

If all they do is hand out bibs, keep score or other admin even if on the court side-lines they do not need EN membership, DBS or training.

If you nominate a parent helper/volunteer (who isn't already the CSO) as the safeguarding person for a particular event or match it makes sense for them to have some safeguarding training or knowledge, but EN don't mandate this.

RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR ALL PARENTS / MEMBERS OVER 18

High Speed Training course - Safeguarding In Sport 2 hours, online – Free

Open University – Safeguarding in Sport Course 90 minute & 12 hour courses - Free

Source: EN Safeguarding Training Requirements (volunteers and coaches) Nov 24 (3) Matrix Below

Recommended Training Compulsory Training	Introductory		Basic	Specialist	3 Year training renewal (both basic and specialist courses)	CPD
	Read Policies (within 1 month of starting role)	Safeguarding In Sport Course (within 3 months of starting role)	UK Coaching - Safeguarding & Protecting Children within 3 months of starting role)	UK Coaching Time to Listen (within 6-12 months of starting role)		
Volunteers						
No contact with U18's	✓	✓				✓
Incidental contact with U18's	✓	✓				✓
Regular contact with U18's (no direct responsibility)	✓	✓				✓
Young Volunteers	✓	✓	✓			✓
Regular unsupervised contact with U18's	✓	✓	✓			✓
Overnight/Residential Involvement	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Event involvement/management responsibilities	✓	✓	✓			✓
Club Safeguarding/Welfare Officer (Clubs with U18's only)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recruitment responsibility (for roles involving children)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coaches						
Level 1	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Level 2	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Level 3	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Bee Netball Leader Award	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Coaches (Aged 16-18 years)	✓		✓			

DBS Check Requirements

Role	Responsibilities	DBS check Required
Assessor	Assessing coaches, umpires etc is not teaching so not Regulated Activity	No
Umpire	Officiating, not directly involved in supervision of play or teaching	No
Scorers	Not coaching or supervising	No
Assistant Coach	This depends on level of direct supervision of children and if the assistant are themselves supervised. If alone and providing regular coaching they will require a DBS.	Maybe
Head Coach, Level 2 coach (or unsupervised coach)	Regularly leading coaching sessions and supervising children	Yes
Mentor	This amounts to instruction/teaching, so if you are regularly supervising a young person to enhance their umpiring or coaching skills you require a DBS check	Yes
Team manager	Likely to be responsible for regular supervision of the team including play and training. If only administering selection and handing out bibs etc (not supervising the training, on-court activity) then they might not require a DBS check.	Probably
Club Safeguarding officer	This role is the point of contact for safeguarding concerns. They oversee safeguarding within the club environment and fits in the description of Regulated Activity	Yes
Treasurer, Chair, membership, media, comms, other volunteers	Unlikely to be involved in direct supervision or coaching or on-court activity	No
First Aider	If they are always going to be supervised by another DBS checked person at all times, they may not need one. If they are likely to be regularly in contact with children at events or training en-route to hospital or in a medical room or bathroom it is safer to have them DBS checked	Probably