

Anti-Bullying Policy

Netball should be fun, friendly and safe for every child, every session

Document Owner	Junior Netball
Approved by	Brett Daynes (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
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Applies to	All Board members, Regional Coordinators, Head Coaches, coaches, volunteers and members of Junior Netball

Worried about a child? Contact us straight away.

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If a child is in immediate danger, call 999. To report a concern about a child to children's social care or the police, you do not need to wait for us.

Junior Netball has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying of any kind. Every child has the right to take part in a session, camp or club free from bullying, and every adult and child at Junior Netball has a responsibility to help make that happen.

What we mean by bullying

Bullying is behaviour, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another child or young person, physically or emotionally. It can be carried out by an individual or a group, and includes:

- Physical bullying — hitting, pushing, or damaging someone's belongings.
- Verbal bullying — name-calling, teasing, threats or put-downs.
- Emotional/social bullying — excluding someone, spreading rumours, or humiliating them in front of others.
- Online/cyberbullying — abusive messages, comments or images shared via social media, messaging apps or online games, including outside of session times.
- Bullying related to a protected characteristic — for example a child's race, disability, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

A single unkind incident is not automatically bullying, but it is still taken seriously and may be a sign that bullying is starting — see our Low-Level Concerns Policy for behaviour by adults.

What we do to prevent bullying

- Coaches model and expect respectful, inclusive behaviour at every session.
- Our Codes of Conduct for players and parents set clear expectations of behaviour.
- Coaches are trained to recognise the signs of bullying, including changes in a child's confidence, friendship groups or willingness to attend.
- Children are actively encouraged to speak up, to each other and to coaches, if something doesn't feel right.

If bullying is suspected or reported

- Take it seriously straight away — report it to the Head Coach or DSL on the day it comes to light.

- The child affected is spoken to first, away from the group, and reassured they are being taken seriously and are not in trouble.
- The child(ren) said to be responsible are then spoken to separately.
- A written record is kept of what happened, who was involved, and what action was taken.
- Parents of everyone involved are informed.
- We agree next steps with the family of the child affected, which may include changes to session groupings, additional supervision, or (for repeated or serious bullying) suspension from sessions.
- We follow up with the family and the coach after an agreed period to check the situation has improved.

Supporting the child who has been bullied

- Reassure them they were right to tell someone, and that they will be supported.
- Keep them informed, at an age-appropriate level, of what is happening and why.
- Signpost additional support where needed, for example Childline (0800 1111).

Responding to the child responsible

- Explain clearly why the behaviour was unacceptable and its impact on the other child.
- Seek an apology where appropriate.
- Agree expectations for future behaviour, and follow up to check they are being met.
- Involve parents in agreeing and supporting next steps.

Where bullying happens outside Junior Netball

If we become aware of bullying between children that started elsewhere — at school, or online — but is affecting how those children get on at Junior Netball, we will still act to keep sessions safe and supportive, and may liaise with the child's school where appropriate and with parental knowledge.

If your child mentions bullying, please tell us — even if you're not sure it 'counts'.

We would always rather look into something and find it was nothing, than not know about it at all.