

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

Child Protection Policy

1. Introduction

The Northants Basketball Club will ensure that

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and /or sexuality have the right to protection from abuse
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All staff (paid/unpaid) have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer

2. Policy Statement

The Northants Basketball Club has a duty of care to safeguard all children involved in the Club from harm and recognises that all children defined in the Children Act 1989 as “a person under the age of 18” have a right to protection and that the needs of disabled children and others that may be vulnerable are taken into account. The Club will ensure the protection of all children involved in the Club through adherence to England Basketball Child Protection Policy and Procedures 2005.

3. Good Practice Guidelines

Good practice means

- Always working in an open environment e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging an open environment
- Treating all children, young people and vulnerable adults equally, and with respect and dignity
- Always putting the welfare of the of each child, young person or vulnerable adult first before winning or achieving goals
- Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with players (e.g. it is not appropriate to have an intimate relationship with a child, young person or adult or to share a room with them)
- Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust which empower children, young people and vulnerable adults to share in the decision making process
- Making sport fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play
- Providing coaches with guidelines should any form of manual /physical support be required to demonstrate an activity and obtaining consent forms at the start of each season
- If groups have to be supervised in the changing rooms, endeavour where possible coaches/parents/officials work in pairs
- Ensuring that if mixed teams are taken away, they should be accompanied by a male and female member of the Club

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- Ensuring that if a male team is taken away there is present at all times a male member of the Club
- Ensuring that if a female team is taken away there is present at all times a female member of the Club
- Ensuring that at all tournaments or residential events, adults should not enter children's rooms or invite children into their rooms. If an adult is working in a supervisory capacity, then they should only enter children's rooms when accompanied by another adult
- Being an excellent role model – this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol whilst supervising children, young people and vulnerable adults and promoting a healthy diet
- Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- Recognising the developmental needs and capacity of children, young persons and vulnerable adults – avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing them against their will
- Securing parental consent in writing to act in loco parentis, if the need arises to give permission for the administration of emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment
- Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given. Where staff witness an injury this must be reported to the parents at the first opportunity
- Requesting written parental consent if club officials are required to transport children, young persons or vulnerable adults in their cars

4. Practices to be avoided.

- Avoid spending excessive time alone with children away from others
- Avoid taking or dropping off a child to an event
- Without parental consent never take a child to your home where they will be alone with you

5. Practices Never to be Sanctioned

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- Share a room with a child
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun

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- Reduce a child to tears as a form of control
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- Do things of a personal nature for children, that they can do themselves
- Invite or allow children, young people and vulnerable adults to stay with you at your home unsupervised

NB it may sometimes be necessary for staff or volunteers to do things of a personal nature for children, young people and vulnerable adults, particularly if they are young or disabled. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of parents and the players involved. There is a need to be responsive to a person's reactions. If a person is fully dependent on you, talk with him/her about what you are doing and give choices where possible. This is particularly so if you are involved in any dressing or undressing of outer clothing, or where there is physical contact, lifting or assisting a child, young person or vulnerable adult to carry out particular activities. Avoid taking on the responsibility for tasks for which you are not appropriately trained.

6. Incidents That Must Be Reported

If any of the following occur you should report this immediately to another colleague and record the incident. You should also ensure that the parents of the child are informed

- If you accidentally hurt a player
- If a player seems distressed in any manner
- If a player seems to be sexually aroused by your actions
- If a player misunderstands or misinterprets anything that you have done

7. Responding to Allegations or Suspicions

It is not the responsibility of anyone working in the Club, in a paid or unpaid capacity to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns through contact with the appropriate authorities.

If a player informs you directly that he/she is being abused within the environment of the Club or through your own observations or through a third party you become aware of possible abuse or poor practice (i.e. practice which contravenes the Clubs or England Basketballs Code of Ethics and Conduct and/or infringes an individuals' rights and/or is a failure to fulfil the highest standards of care) or you have concerns of abuse outside the environment of the Club you must react IMMEDIATELY.

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If the concerns are about poor practice the matter shall be referred to the Club's Child Welfare Officer who will deal with the matter as a misconduct issue. If there remain concerns then the matter will be referred to the England Basketball Lead Child Protection Officer and will decide how to deal with the allegation and whether or not to issue disciplinary proceedings.

If the concerns are about possible abuse then you should:

- (a) ensure the safety of the young person. If medical attention is required then either take the young person to hospital or call an ambulance ensuring that the doctors are informed that this is a child protection issue.
- (b) Contact the Club Child Welfare Officer who will follow the reporting procedure below. If the Club Welfare officer is not available or is the subject of the allegation then the person that has the concerns should follow the reporting procedure below.

Reporting Procedure

- Seek advice immediately from the Local Social Services [] or Police [] who will advise on the action to be taken, including on contacting parents. Expert advice can be provided by the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000
- Make a full and factual record of events utilising the Incident Record Form and forward a copy of the recorded information as directed by Social Services/Police and also to the England Basketball Lead Child Protection Officer who will take appropriate action. (Unless they are the subject of the allegation) supply a copy to the Club Child Welfare Officer.

NB For further information see flow charts attached.

8. Club Policy on Recruitment and Training of Staff and Volunteers

The Club recognizes that anyone may have the potential to abuse children and has therefore taken the following steps to ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working within the Club.

- All volunteers shall complete an application form. The form will elicit information regarding the applicants past and a self-disclosure about any criminal record
- A check will be made of the Criminal Records Bureau
- Induction to include explanation of Child Protection Policy, Code of Ethics, identify any relevant training needs

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- The Club shall require each person within the Club working with children to have attended a recognised training course

9. Publications and the Internet

The Club recognises that sport publications and websites whilst providing an excellent opportunity to broadcast achievements of young people could also place them at risk. The Club will therefore adopt the following:

- Publications or information on the internet will not include personal information that could identify a child e.g. home address, email, telephone number.
- Before information is published written consent will be obtained from the young person's parent/guardian
- The content of photographs or videos will not depict a young person in a provocative pose or in a state of undress other than when depicting them undertaking Basketball. Young person will not be portrayed in a tasteless or demeaning manner
- Care will be taken in publishing photographs films or videos of young persons who are considered vulnerable e.g. the subject of a custody dispute.

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