



Online safeguarding guidance

The England Netball [Social Media Policy](#) has been developed to provide guidance for all clubs, club safeguarding officers, members, connected participants, volunteers and staff to help them understand the acceptable standards of use of social media in netball. It sets out best practice designed to assist everyone in understanding what the potential risks are in using social media and how these can be managed.

There are a number of online and social media risks for young people we all need to be aware of, these could be, but are not limited to:

- Posting personal information that can identify and locate a child offline
- Communicating with people they don't know, including potentially dangerous individuals
- Potential for inappropriate relationships between adults in positions of trust and the young people they work with
- Sexual grooming, luring, exploitation and abuse, or unwanted contact
- Exposure to inappropriate content, including pornography, racist or hate material or violent behaviour
- Glorifying activities such as drug taking or excessive drinking
- Cyberbullying or berating by peers and people they consider 'friends'
- Being encouraged to create or share inappropriate or harmful material of themselves or others, including sexting (sexual images or video)
- Communicating directly with staff or other adults in an inappropriate way
- Risks of online grooming

How to create a safer online environment

Follow these steps to help ensure a safe online environment for children and young people at your club:

- As a club implement an online or social media policy, you can read the England Netball Social Media Policy [here](#)
-

- Put in place and acceptable Use agreement which is to be read and signed by parents/carers and the young person, in order to ensure the obligations are understood before signing. An example agreement can be found in the England Netball Social Media Policy [here](#)
- Have specific procedures and specific codes of conduct for young people to follow that outline what's acceptable behaviour online and what's not
- Ensure that everyone involved – including coaches, volunteers, administrators, parents and children – understands and complies with their responsibilities within these policies
- Address any instances of misconduct online in accordance with your online safety and social media policy
- Share the guidance below with your members and parents
- Make your members aware of who they can report their concerns to and provide them with contact details.

Here is some guidance that you can share with England Netball members under the age of 18, to help them protect themselves online:

- Never share your personal details online and ensure your privacy settings are secure. Be aware of what personal information you have public, including account handles and user names as part of your social media profile including sharing information about your accounts on other social media platforms.
 - Ensure that your social media platforms are password protected and that you do not share this password, unless your parent/guardian requests it.
 - Consider who you are inviting to be your friend and follow the good advice of the social networking sites to ensure you are talking to the person you believe you are talking to.
 - Always remember that anything you say including photos, pictures and video clips posted on your site may be shared with people other than those for whom it was intended.
 - Never post, share or send any photographs, videos or make comments that may be hurtful, untrue and upsetting and you may regret sharing later on or used by other people in a way you did not intend or want.
-

- Remember that it can be difficult to delete information that has been uploaded to the internet, it may have been shared or copied as soon as it is uploaded.
- never place a comment on the internet that you would not put in writing or say to the individual concerned
- Remember to report any concerns you have to a responsible adult

Guidance you can share with parents of England Netball members under the age of 18:

- Get to know your child's online habits. Children are inquisitive. They will look to explore the internet as much as they do the real world. Knowing the sites they go to, the people they meet there and what they do will help to keep children safe.
- Stay alert to any sudden changes in mood or appearance, or to any major change in habits or to increased secretiveness. These are often tell-tale signs that something is not right.
- Keep lines of communication open - tell your child they can always talk to you or another trusted adult, such as a teacher or Club Safeguarding Officer, if they do end up in some sort of trouble on the internet. Make children aware that there are things on the internet which may distress them.
- Spend time with your child(ren) surfing the internet together. Explain the Applications (App), games and social media platforms that are acceptable for them to use and the reason for others not being suitable.
- If your child(ren) mentions that they wish to use an App, game or social media platform that you have not permitted them to, research the area and explain the reason it is not acceptable.
- Spend some time surfing the internet yourself. The more that you know about the internet, the better able you are, in turn, to help your child navigate around it without coming to any harm.
- Set parental controls.

Further information for parents can be found on the NSPCC website here - [NSPCC's online safety advice for parents and the National Crime Agency website.](#)

Reporting Concerns

Everyone is encouraged to report concerns of misuse or inappropriate usage of social media. The first point of contact will be the Club Safeguarding Officer.

If it relates to a potential safeguarding issue, the matter must be reported to the Lead Child Protection Officer at England Netball on besafe@englandnetball.co.uk.

Threats of immediate harm or danger should be reported to the police and/or Children's Services or the Local Authority Designated Officer (where the concern relates to someone in a position of trust), contactable via your local authority and the Local Safeguarding Children Board and reported to the Lead Child Protection Officer at England Netball, following the [Reporting a Concern process](#).

Further support

If you or your club would like further support with online safety please contact the England Netball Compliance team on besafe@englandnetball.co.uk

Information and support for parents and young people can also be found on the NSPCC website here - [NSPCC's online safety advice for parents and the National Crime Agency website](#).
