



Chorley Inferno Safeguarding Policy for Coaches, Parents and Officials

What is Safeguarding in Sport?

Safeguarding in sport means **protecting children and young people from harm, preventing abuse, and supporting overall wellbeing.**

At Chorley Inferno:

As an **England Netball-affiliated club**, we commit to:

- Having a **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**
 - Following **safeguarding policies and Codes of Conduct**
 - Implementing **safe recruitment and training** for all staff/volunteers
 - Maintaining up-to-date **DBS checks and minimum Level 2 safeguarding training** for lead coaches
 - Ensuring all members know **how to report and respond to concerns**
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What Counts as a Safeguarding Concern?

Examples of safeguarding concerns:

- A coach kicks a ball toward a child in anger
- A volunteer enters changing rooms unaccompanied
- A player is fearful of going home or discloses abuse
- A coach is shouting or swearing frequently at players
- A child appears withdrawn or frightened without explanation

Examples of non-safeguarding issues (but still need handling):

- Parent unhappy with court time
- Coaching disagreements
- Disciplinary issues (e.g., fighting between players)
- Comments or jokes made by adults within earshot of children

Refer to your **club complaints process** for these lower-level issues.

Responding to Different Levels of Concern

Level	Example	Action
Lowest	Parent complaint about play time	Manage expectations, explain team selection approach
Low	Coach makes inappropriate joke	Challenge behaviour, advise coach, monitor for patterns
Medium	Coach repeatedly shouts at child with ADHD	Speak with coach and parents, report to DSL if persistent
High	Coach kicks a ball in anger or is abusive	Report to DSL and England Netball, consider interim removal
Highest	Player receives inappropriate messages from adult	Report to police, advise child/parent, log facts immediately

Concern Decision-Making Guide

Ask yourself:

- Is this a **one-off** or **part of a pattern**?
- Does it involve a **child's safety, mental health, or home concerns**?
- Does it involve a **coach, volunteer, or official**?

If Yes:

- Report to Club Safeguarding Lead in first instance:
- Report Via this form: <https://forms.gle/roP5NL7it4nXNhHU6>
- Email: chorleyinfernosgofficer@gmail.com
- **Donna Monks 07754 593302 and Jenna Harty 07929 185 940**
- If **serious, repeated, or unclear** → Email: BeSafe@englandnetball.co.uk
- If **immediate risk** → Call **Social Services or Police**

Always:

- **Record** the concern in factual, objective terms.
- **Store securely**
- Include: date, time, who was present, what was observed, what action was taken

Real-Life Scenario Responses for Coaches

Scenario	Action
Umpire shares inappropriate personal info with U16s	Challenge publicly if safe, refer if pattern emerges
Coach is pushing teens too hard and messaging daily	Establish facts, report to DSL, review communication boundaries
A child is unusually quiet and withdrawn	Gently ask how they are, report if you sense concern
Parent becomes aggressive during match	Remove if needed, enforce Code of Conduct, log incident
Player cries before going home	Check if OK, if still concerned, report to DSL and potentially social services

For more guidance, use England Netball's [Safeguarding Flow Chart](#) or email: BeSafe@englandnetball.co.uk

Recognising Abuse and Risk Factors

Main types:

- Physical
 - Emotional
 - Sexual
 - Neglect
 - Domestic abuse
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Pre-Session & Venue Safety

- Inspect court and surroundings for hazards
- Know emergency exits and procedures
- Confirm availability of first aid equipment
- Limit personal device usage to emergencies
- Know school venue sign-in and first aid processes (if applicable)

Coach & Volunteer Compliance

- Hold a valid DBS check
 - Be trained in safeguarding (Level 2 minimum for lead coaches)
 - Review player medical needs and emergency contacts
 - Maintain appropriate adult-to-player ratios
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Pick-Up and Drop-Off

- Use clearly designated zones
 - Only release children to authorised individuals
 - Keep attendance updated
 - Clearly communicate with parents
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Professional Conduct

- No social media contact with players
 - No 1:1 coaching unless open, visible, and consented
 - No physical contact unless essential and agreed
 - Obtain consent for photos/videos and delete when no longer needed
 - Always maintain respectful and encouraging language
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Key Contacts & Resources

- Report Concerns via this form: <https://forms.gle/roP5NL7it4nXNhHU6>
- Email: chorleyinfernosgofficer@gmail.com
- Donna Monks 07754 593302 and Jenna Harty 07929 185 940
- England Netball Safeguarding: BeSafe@englandnetball.co.uk
- Local Authority (Lancashire):
 - Day: 0300 123 6720
 - Out of Hours: 0300 123 6722
- Police: 999 (emergency) or 101 (non-emergency)
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk

Final Reminder

Safeguarding isn't just a policy—it's a mindset.

- If something feels wrong, **speak up**.
- If a child seems off, **check in**.
- If a parent expresses concern, **listen and act appropriately**.
- **Always document, report, and review**.

Let's keep Chorley Inferno a club where **players feel safe, respected, and supported** every time they step on court.