

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Bristol Bulls Basketball Club

Last reviewed: 23.07.26 Next review: 23.07.27 Owner: Rachel Barnett

1. Policy statement

Bristol Bulls Basketball Club is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every child and young person who takes part in our sessions, matches and events. Every child has the right to be protected from harm, regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnicity, faith, sexuality or background.

This policy is written in line with Basketball England's Safeguarding Policy, the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) standards, the Children Act 1989 and 2004, and Working Together to Safeguard Children. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, at every level of the club.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all coaches, volunteers, committee members, **parents**, guardians and carers and players at Bristol Bulls Basketball Club, across our Under 10s, Under 12s and girls-only sessions, and at every match, festival and away fixture.

Commented [1]: parents, carers and guardians

3. Designated Safeguarding Lead

Designated Safeguarding Lead / Welfare Officer	Rachel Barnett
Chair / Head Coach	Rio Lynes
Basketball England Safeguarding Team	See Basketball England Resource Manual for current contact details
NSPCC Helpline	0808 800 5000

If a concern involves the Designated Safeguarding Lead themselves, it should be reported directly to Basketball England's Safeguarding Team or the NSPCC helpline.

4. Recognising abuse and harm

Abuse can take several forms, and a child may experience more than one at the same time. Coaches and volunteers are trained to be alert to signs of:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Bullying, including online bullying

You do not need to be certain that a child is being harmed to raise a concern, if something doesn't feel right, report it.

5. Reporting a concern

If a child tells you something, or you notice something that concerns you:

- Stay calm and listen - do not promise to keep it secret
- Reassure the child they were right to speak up

- Do not question or investigate the situation yourself
- Record what was said or observed as soon as possible, using the child's own words where you can, with dates and times
- Report it to the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately — the same day, wherever possible

The DSL will decide, taking advice from Basketball England or children's social care where needed, whether a referral to children's social care, the police, or Basketball England's Safeguarding Team is required. In an emergency, or if a child is in immediate danger, call 999.

6. Safer recruitment

- All coaches and volunteers who work regularly and unsupervised with children complete an enhanced DBS check before starting
- References are taken up and coaching qualifications verified
- New coaches and volunteers complete an induction covering this policy and our code of conduct
- No coach or volunteer works unsupervised with children until these checks are complete

7. Codes of conduct

Coaches and volunteers

- Maintain professional boundaries with players at all times
- Avoid being alone with a single child; where 1:1 contact is unavoidable, ensure it is visible or observable to others
- Only use physical contact that is necessary, appropriate and welcomed, such as demonstrating technique
- Follow the club's guidance on transport, changing rooms and away fixtures
- Do not exchange personal phone numbers with players; all contact with a young person goes through a parent/guardian and carers or an official club channel
- Do not contact a player directly by phone call, text, or messaging app under any circumstances

Commented [2]: add something about phones

Players

- Treat teammates, coaches and opponents with respect
- Play fair and follow the rules of the game
- Speak up if something feels wrong, to a coach, parent, or the Welfare Officer

Parents and spectators

- Support positively from the sidelines - no criticism of players, coaches or officials
- Respect the safeguarding of all children at the session, not only your own

8. Photography and use of images

We only photograph or film a child with prior parental/guardian consent (see our Privacy Policy). Images are used solely for club and promotional purposes, and are never published alongside identifying details such as a child's school or home address. Where a child is named alongside a photo or video (for example on social media or the website) we use first name only, never a full name.

9. Online safety and communication

- Club communication with young people takes place through group channels only, never 1:1 messaging between an adult and a child
- Coaches and volunteers should not accept or send friend/follow requests to players on personal social media accounts
- Any concern about a child's online safety should be reported to the DSL

10. Anti-bullying

We have zero tolerance for bullying of any kind, including cyberbullying. Any player, parent, coach or volunteer who experiences or witnesses bullying should report it to the Welfare Officer, who will address it promptly and confidentially.

11. Away fixtures and festivals

- A basic risk assessment is completed before any away fixture or festival
- Appropriate adult-to-child ratios are maintained throughout
- Emergency contact details are on hand for every player travelling
- A coach or volunteer is nominated as the safeguarding point of contact for the day

12. Whistleblowing

Anyone with a concern about the conduct of a coach, volunteer or committee member — including the DSL — has a duty to report it. Concerns can be raised with the DSL or, where the concern involves the DSL, with the Chair or Basketball England's Safeguarding Team directly. No one will be penalised for raising a genuine concern in good faith.

13. Confidentiality

Safeguarding information is shared only with those who need to know, in line with our Privacy Policy. Records are stored securely and separately from general club records.

14. Training

All coaches and volunteers complete Basketball England safeguarding training as part of their induction, and refresh this training in line with Basketball England's requirements. The club keeps a record of who has completed which safeguarding and coaching qualifications.

15. Review

This policy is reviewed at least annually, and immediately after any safeguarding incident or significant change in guidance from Basketball England or the NSPCC.