

Child Safeguarding A Guide for Parents & Carers



The Netball Child Safeguarding Framework sets out the responsibilities that all Associations, Leagues, Clubs and Participants within Netball (including parents) have to keep our children safe. It consists of:

- **Netball Victoria's Commitment to Child Safety**

Every person in the netball community has a responsibility to understand their role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care.

Netball Victoria is committed to promoting and protecting the rights of children and preventing abuse from occurring by fostering a culture where children feel safe and empowered.

We also seek to ensure the cultural safety of First Nations children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability

- **[Netball Australia's Child Safeguarding Policy](#)**

- To view the Policy in full, [click here](#)
- To view a brief summary of the Policy, [click here](#)

WHY YOUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY:

1. We love Netball. We also love your children playing Netball with us and want them to keep participating. Yet we realise that they have to FEEL safe to enjoy Netball and want to keep coming back.
2. All kids have a right to feel safe, be involved and have a voice in decisions that affect them.
3. Society has changed, and with it, higher standards of behaviour are now expected – of all of us. Sometimes, even though we have good intentions, others' *perception* of behaviour is different. So, we want to help you to understand how we will work with you to protect your children.

WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO:

We're here to help. Victoria has legislative requirements and mandatory standards in place about child safety. We can't ignore those. But we want to make it as simple as possible for you, your children and all of our Netball volunteers, coaches and members to keep children safe.

We've developed simple resources for you to explain how we keep children and young people safe in Netball. This Guide also includes links to our other child safe resources that we hope are helpful for you to summarise and simplify the key commitments, messages and boundaries that we adhere to and practice in Netball when they are part of our community.

Click here to see the Netball Victoria Child Safeguarding Resource Hub – **Insert Link to Hub**

SOME CHILD SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS:

You know your children best. Also, our schools now often teach their students about safety, boundaries with adults and that it's OK to speak up if they don't feel comfortable or safe. You can also help us to reinforce the key messages we have for children about child safety in Netball, just as in life.

The **three key messages** we have in our Child Safeguarding – A Guide for Teens are:

1. Netball should be fun, safe and enjoyable.
2. You should never feel uncomfortable around others in Netball, particularly adults.
3. If you don't feel safe or comfortable, it's OK to speak up. We want you to **tell an adult that you trust** – whether that's your Mum or Dad, carer, coach or another member of your club or family.

Click here to view the Child Safeguarding – A Guide for Teens – **Insert link to this guide**

We know that children are more likely to speak up if they **feel valued** and are **listened to** in an **authentic** and **genuine** way. So please help us to **keep the conversations open with your kids** about how they are feeling.

SOME CONVERSATION TIPS TO TALK ABOUT SAFETY WITH YOUR CHILDREN:

It's not always comfortable talking to kids about how they are feeling in our Netball community or other environments. The delivery of conversations is just as important as the message or content itself. You're more likely to engage with children about tricky topics if the conversation is calm, non-judgmental and open. That is, you're listening carefully to them and open to hearing more – showing empathy and letting them know that they're doing the right thing by talking.

To open up a conversation with your child about safety in netball, first of all, choose the right time. Sometimes, you may get more information in casual interactions, such as when driving in the car or going for a walk together. You could try using an example that you have heard of with another kid and whether they had seen or heard anything similar.

For example, *“another parent at the club told me that they were worried about how the coach is talking to their child. Have you seen or heard anything similar?”*.

IF YOU NEED HELP:

If ever your child tells you that they are not happy, comfortable, or safe in their Netball environment, **please tell an appropriate senior person in at your organisation such as your club's Child Safety Officer or a trusted Netball official**. Then we'll make sure that any issue raised is dealt with appropriately and in line with our Child Safeguarding Policy.

If you reasonably believe any child is in immediate danger of a significant nature, please call 000 to speak with police. You can also contact services such as Parent Helpline, NAPCAN, Lifeline, Kids Helpline and the Raising Children Network. A **reasonable belief** is one that a reasonable person in the same position would have formed on the same grounds.

This document was developed utilising and adapting content from Vicsport Promoting Child Safe Resources. Information contained in this document is general in nature and should not be considered as a substitute for legal advice.