



## RV LEAPERS SAFEGUARDING POLICY 2023

*To be read in conjunction with the England Netball Policies*

### **PURPOSE**

RV Leapers Netball Club (The Club) considers the safety and wellbeing of all its members, volunteers and staff as central to its values. As a netball club we accept our responsibility for providing guidance and support to all members to ensure that netball is enjoyable and safe.

This Policy sets out our approach to fulfilling our commitment to creating and maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment for the young people who take part in the sport of netball. The Club requires all members, connected participants and staff to abide by this Policy and all related procedures and practice published by England Netball and also any legislation governing the safeguarding of young people.

This policy applies to all The Club. This policy is expected to be followed by all - whether at The Club, an organised competition or an external event.

In relation to young people, everyone has a responsibility for safeguarding their welfare and this is no less the case in netball. Specified people have identified responsibility within the Reporting a Concern process, but they can only act on the information which others provide to them. Some concerns may relate to a young person's general wellbeing, rather than due to them being subject to abuse. The Club accepts its role in supporting the netball community with offering assistance to these individuals.

### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Anyone under the age of 18 will be considered a child or young person in relation to Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Netball Policy and Procedures.
2. The safety and welfare of all young people is paramount.
3. All young people regardless of age, ability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, social status or sexual orientation have the right to be protected from abuse.
4. The rights, dignity and worth of all young people should always be respected.
5. All allegations, complaints of poor practice and alleged breaches of England Netball Codes of Conduct will be taken seriously and responded to quickly in line with the England Netball Policy and Procedures.
6. It is the responsibility of safeguarding and child protection experts to determine whether or not abuse has taken place but it is everyone's responsibility in netball to act appropriately and report concerns.
7. Working in partnership with parents, carers and the young people themselves is essential for the safeguarding and protection of young people.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

In accordance with England Netball Procedures, The Club has:

- Appointed a Club Safeguarding Officer(s) in line with the England Netball Recruitment Guidelines and Volunteer Role Description to manage safeguarding and child protection.
- Adopted and implemented the England Netball Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Netball Policy and Procedures and Guidelines.
- Worked and will continue to work in partnership with parents/carers and young people within the club.
- Ensured and will continue to ensure that all relevant members who have regular supervisory contact with young people are safely recruited according to EN guidelines which includes the completion of an Enhanced DBS check.

## **PROHIBITED PRACTICE:**

Coaches, volunteers, umpires or managers **must never**:-

1. Spend time alone with young people away from others.
2. Take young people to their home where they will be alone with them . Invite or allow young people to stay with them at their home.
3. Transport young people in your car alone.
4. If it should arise that such situations are unavoidable they should only take place with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge in the club/England Netball and/or a person with parental responsibility for the young person. In exceptional circumstances where this consent cannot be obtained, if it is in the welfare interest of the young person, the preceding paragraph does not have to be followed. If this occurs the adult must record the occurrence with the club/ England Netball CSO/EN Lead Child Protection Officer
5. Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games with young people.
6. Share a room with a young person unless the individual is the parent/guardian.
7. Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate physical touching or sexual contact or behaviour.
8. Use or allow young people to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
9. Make sexually suggestive comments to a young person, even in fun.
10. Allow allegations made by a young person to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
11. Do things of a personal nature for young people that they can do for themselves, unless you have been requested to do so by the parents/carers. It is recognised that some young people will always need help with things such as lace tying and it is also recognised that this does not preclude anyone attending to an injured/ill young person or rendering first aid.
12. Depart the netball club or agreed rendez-vous point until the safe dispersal of all young people is complete.
13. Cause an individual to lose self esteem by embarrassing, humiliating or undermining the

individual.

14. Treat some young people more favourably than others.
15. Agree to meet a young person on their own on a one to one basis outside of netball.

### **REPORTING A CONCERN**

**Club Safeguarding Officer - Larissa German (Tel: 07957982063) Email: (safeguarding.rvleapers@gmail.com)**

The Club Safeguarding Officer plays an integral part in the welfare of the members of The Club. They help develop a safe and inclusive environment for all members, employees and volunteers of the club. They are the main link within the reporting process which helps protect the welfare of any affected persons.

#### **THE PROCESS FOR PLAYERS REPORTING CONCERNS:**

1. Should any player have a safeguarding concern, dependent on the urgency of the situation, this should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer via email.
2. If the situation requires immediate on site attention, this should be reported to the closest employee of The Club who will then be required to report this information to the Safeguarding Officer as soon as practicable.
3. Any concerns reported will be investigated by the Safeguarding Officer with a follow up contact being made to the reporter as soon as practicable.

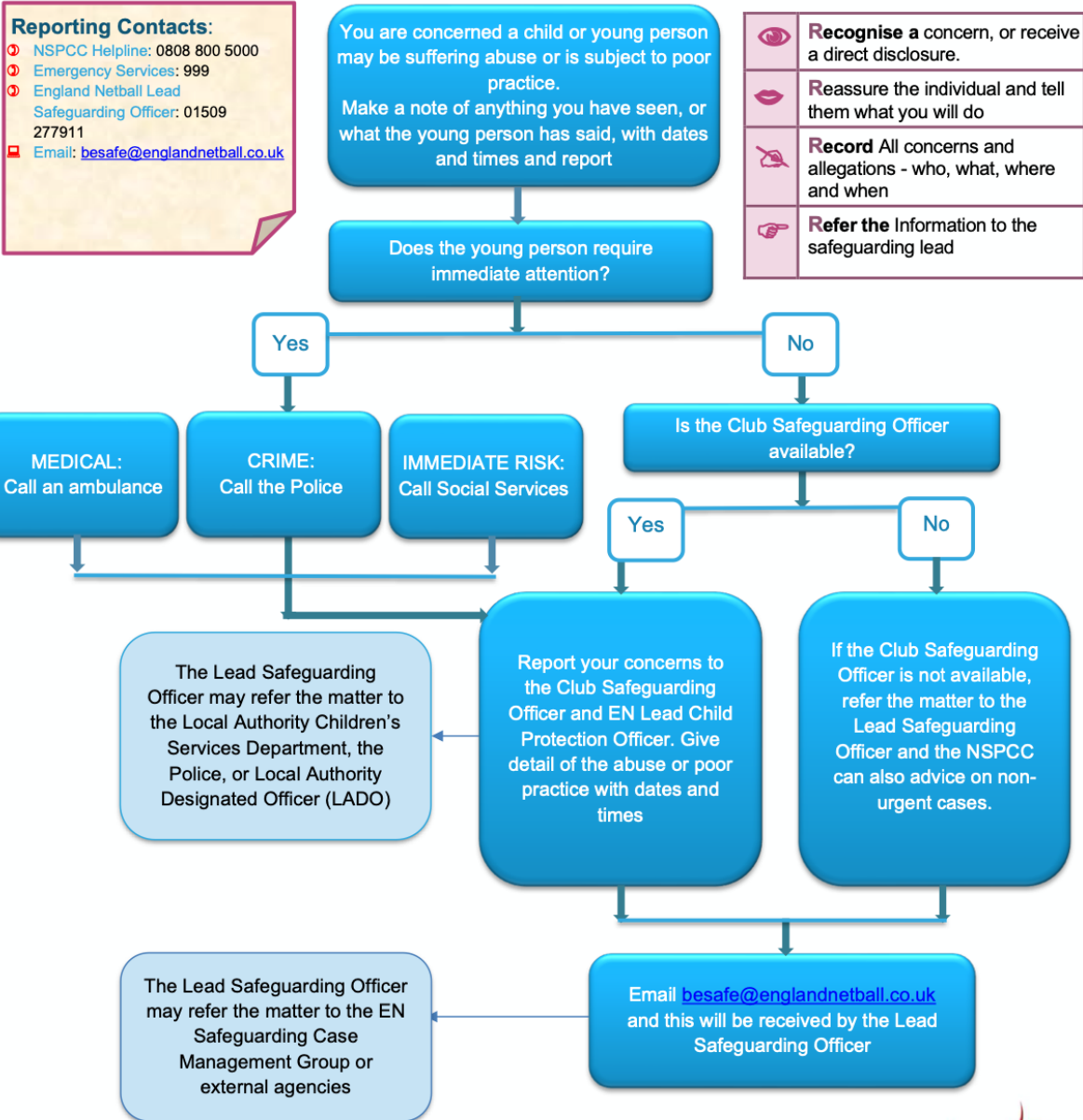
#### **THE PROCESS FOR REPORTING CONCERNS IN RELATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Club also follows the below guidance provided by England Netball for concerns relating to those under 18, and expects its members, employees and volunteers to do so:



## Reporting a Safeguarding Concern in the Netball Environment

**Safeguarding young people in sport is vital to ensure they have a safe and positive experience. Whatever your role at, you should always report concerns you may have of any abuse or poor practice.**



Nb. Copies of related policies are available on the website [www.englandnetball.co.uk](http://www.englandnetball.co.uk) or from your regional office or England Netball Head Office (Netball House, 9 Paynes Park, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 1EH).