

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection: Policy and Procedures 2012

Creating a Safe Environment in Basketball
For Children and Vulnerable Adults

With Acknowledgement to CHILDREN 1st





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Sports Coach UK

Scottish Football Association

Amateur Swimming Association

The Scouts

The Scottish Hockey Union Ltd



Foreword

Sport can and does have a very powerful and positive influence on people - especially young people and vulnerable adults. Not only can sport provide opportunities for enjoyment and achievement, it can also help those who participate to develop valuable qualities and skills such as self-esteem, leadership and teamwork. These positive effects can only take place if sport is in the right hands - in the hands of those who place the welfare of all young people and vulnerable adults first and adopt practices that support, protect and empower them. The reality is that abuse does take place in sport and in some cases coaches and other trusted adults in sport have been convicted of abusing children and vulnerable adults.

Everyone has a duty of care towards children and vulnerable adults to help to protect them from abuse. **basketballscotland** has developed this policy and these procedures to create a safe environment for basketball, where children, vulnerable adults and the adults that aid them are protected and supported.

basketballscotland is committed to the protection of children and vulnerable adults through the provision of this policy and these procedures. **basketballscotland's child and vulnerable adult policy and procedures apply to everyone who works on behalf of basketballscotland**. This includes all professional and non-professional, full and part-time staff, paid and unpaid employees, coaches, officials, Board and Committee/Commission members, volunteers, parents, guardians and the children and vulnerable adults themselves. For the purposes of this policy, those to whom it is applicable will be termed 'members'. Club and association/group representatives are urged to read and understand the policy and make its existence known to all members. The policy is available to members through their clubs/associations/groups or by contacting **basketballscotland** directly.

basketballscotland recognise that it has a responsibility to:

- Safeguard and promote the interests and well-being of children and vulnerable adults with whom it is working;
- Take all reasonable practical steps to protect them from harm, discrimination, or degrading treatment; and
- Respect their rights, wishes and feelings.

Child and vulnerable adult protection procedures can:

- Offer safeguards to the children and vulnerable adults with whom we work, and to our members of staff, volunteers and those in affiliated organisations; and

Help to maintain high standards of professionalism and practice within **basketballscotland** and affiliated organisations.



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basketballscotland CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

basketballscotland is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children in its care. It recognises the responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation. For the purposes of this policy and associated procedures a child is recognised as someone under the age of 18 years.

Staff and volunteers will work together to embrace difference and diversity and respect the rights of children and young people.

This document outlines basketballscotland's commitment to protecting children.

These guidelines are based on the following principles:

- The welfare of children is the primary concern.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse.
- Child protection is everyone's responsibility.
- Children have the right to express views on all matters which affect them, should they wish to do so.
- Organisations shall work in partnership together with children and parents/carers to promote the welfare, health and development of children.

basketballscotland will:

- Promote the health and welfare of children by providing opportunities for them to take part in basketball safely.
- Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children.
- Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and protect them from abuse.
- Recruit, train, support and supervise its staff, members and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children from abuse and to reduce risk to themselves.
- Require staff, members and volunteers to adopt and abide by this Child Protection Policy and these procedures.
- Respond to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children in line with this Policy and these procedures as well as implementing, where appropriate, the relevant disciplinary and appeals procedures.
- Observe guidelines issued by local Child Protection Committees for the protection of children.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Policy and these procedures.



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Review

This Policy and these Procedures will be regularly reviewed:

- In accordance with changes in legislation and guidance on the protection of children or following any changes within **basketballscotland**
- Following any issues or concerns raised about the protection of children within **basketballscotland** In all other circumstances, at least every three years.