

CHILD SAFETY - A Guide for Teens

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.

Three Important Messages

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, guardian, coach, team manager, or another member of your Netball club or family.



Report any incidents of abuse or neglect towards teens involved in Netball.

Try to make sure that **you are not alone** with staff, coaches, volunteers or officials where they can't be seen by other adults

Permission from parents/guardians must be obtained in writing before other adults can take you on an excursion, arrange overnight stays/camps or provide transport to another location.

Responsibilities of Teens in Netball

When you are involved in Netball, you also have some responsibilities. These include:

- Letting a member/parent/guardian know if you are unhappy or you don't feel safe;
- Treating other participants and adults with respect;
- Following the rules when involved in Netball;
- Remembering that there are others involved in Netball. You are certainly free to choose your own friends. However, don't stop other teens or younger kids from enjoying and participating in Netball; and
- Listening to others and respecting their opinions.

What to do if you have concerns:

- If at any stage you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried, you should let your parent/guardian or a trusted adult in Netball know what has happened – they will want to support you.
- All you need to do is tell someone about what happened, and they will do their best to make sure that you feel safe and protected from harm.

Your Rights

All kids involved in Netball should:

- Feel comfortable;
- Feel safe;
- Have a right to contact your parents/guardians or others if you feel unsafe, uncomfortable or distressed at any time when you are involved in Netball;
- Be provided with clear directions and given the chance to positively change your behavior if Netball staff, coaches, volunteers or officials believe that you have broken any rules or policies or you have misbehaved;
- NOT be subject to disciplinary action involving verbal or physical punishment, or any form of treatment that could reasonably be considered cruel, frightening, humiliating or like you are being put down; and
- Contribute suggestions or feedback about Netball.