SAFEGUARDING

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding means protecting the health, wellbeing and human rights of individuals, allowing people (especially children, young people and vulnerable adults) to live free from abuse, harm and neglect. If something is going on which is making you or anyone you know feel uncomfortable and afraid for their safety then it is important you recognise this as a safeguarding issue and take action. Under 18's and vulnerable adults are covered by Basketball England's safeguarding policy.

How do I report a safeguarding issue?

Anybody can report a safeguarding issue. Speaking to an official, such as club manager or coach can be a first option. If you don't feel comfortable speaking to those individuals, or your concern relates to them, then you can either speak directly to your local Welfare Officer (For Warwickshire Basketball Association this is stephaniezoka@gmail.com, 07598206828, or Basketball England safeguarding@basketballengland.co.uk, 0300 600 1170)

If the issue is urgent and somebody is in danger then contact the police in the first instance (call 999), or contact the NSPCC 24/7 hotline on 0808 800 5000, or if you're under 18 then contact Childline on 0800 1111.

What can I do to protect my club from potential Safeguarding issues?

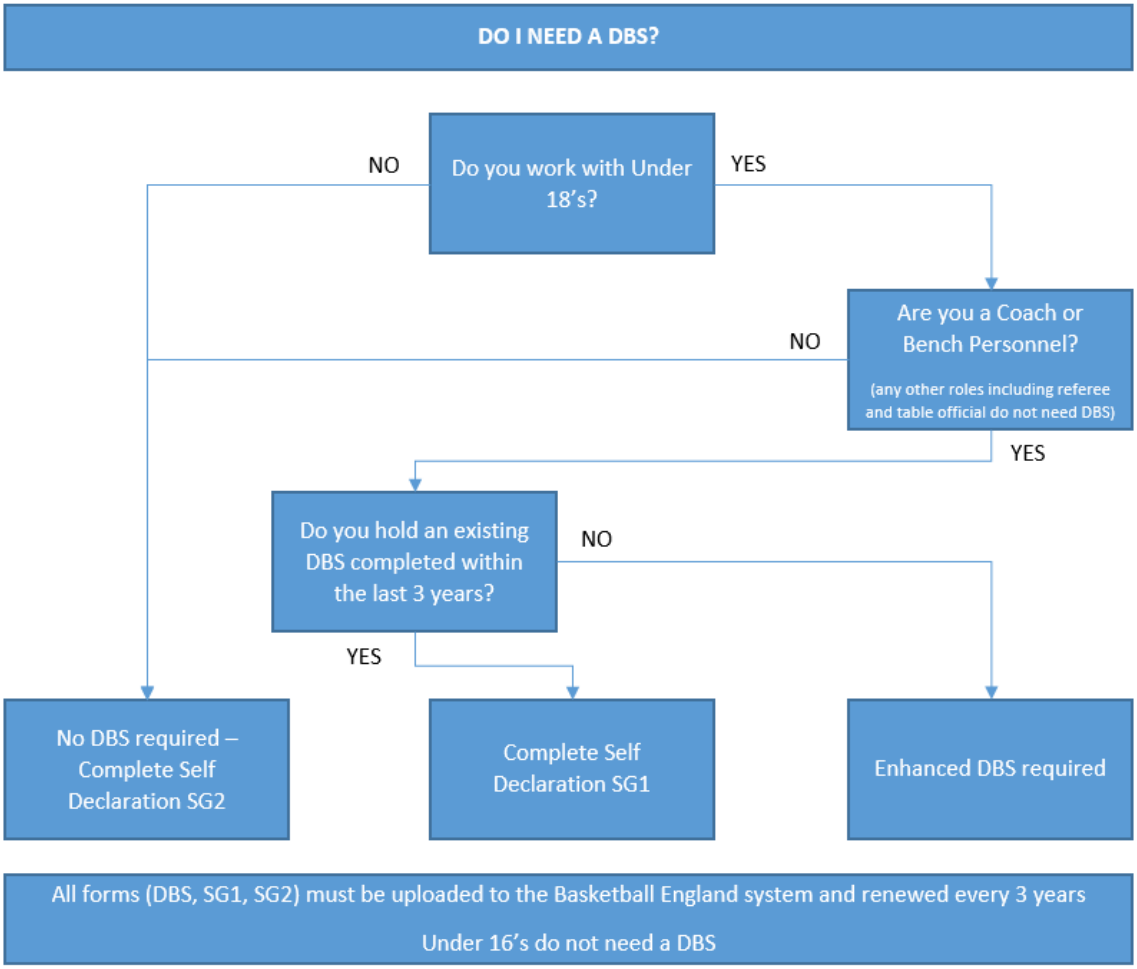
1. Ensure all players and staff are aware of what is appropriate conduct and what is not.
2. There are two posters <LINK to where they are stored on the website> which can be displayed at any of the locations you operate (games, training grounds etc.)
3. Ensure all your officials have the correct DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) in place.
4. Take any concerns you receive seriously, reporting them promptly to your local Welfare Officer and offering support to those involved.

DBS

Who needs a DBS?

All members (over the age of 16) who are qualified and licensed with Basketball England to work with or coach Under 18's in regulated/unsupervised activity are required to hold a valid, clear and enhanced DBS that has been completed in the last 3 years. Regulated activity is defined as anyone who has a role coaching, teaching, caring, supervising, advising, treating, or transporting anyone under the age of 18. It also includes working with Under 18's once a week or more, four times or more in a single month and/or overnight between 2am – 6am.

It is extremely good practice to hold an enhanced DBS if you are working with Under 18's, regardless if it is regulated or not, so we encourage all members working with under 18's to undergo one. This flowchart will help you determine who needs a DBS. All forms can be found on the Basketball England Website. If you are unsure, please contact your local Welfare Officer or Basketball England Safeguarding Team.



Please note: for 2020/21 season all referees and table officials will need DBS.

I am working with an adult team in an adult league. Do I need a DBS and Safeguarding Certificate?

No. If you have no junior players within your team, when licensing, you can complete an SG2 Form - Self-Declaration form for roles not in Regulated Activity. This replaces the old 'Senior Waiver Form'. You will be asked to upload the form to the membership system in place of the Safeguarding Certificate. The Safeguarding team will verify the document and override the DBS fields. You cannot use your Senior license and move to coach or support a team with Juniors. If you plan to run sessions with anyone under 18 or have under 18s on a Senior Men's team, you will need to complete a DBS check and Self-Declaration and Disclosure Form for Regulated Activity.

I have a DBS with another organisation, do I need to do a new one through Basketball England?

Not necessarily. If you hold an Enhanced DBS with Barred List check through your work, charity or different sport that has been done in the past 3 years then we can accept this when licensing. We will also require you to complete SG1 Form – Self Declaration for roles in Regulated Activity with Under 18s.

How often do I need to renew a DBS?

We ask for DBS' to be done in the last 3 years. Even though DBS' do not have expiry dates, this ensures that we regularly have up to date information on people working with Under 18's in basketball to ensure it is a safe environment to be in.

How do I ensure I have appropriate DBS checked adults at training events or games?

It is important that any player under 18 is appropriately supervised by an adult who holds a valid DBS in games and training sessions. This includes under 18 players playing in an adult team. All coaches and bench personnel are required to hold a valid DBS. In the event that all of these officials are ejected from the court during play, the game must end if you have any under 18's playing. The best way to prepare for this scenario is to have several responsible adults with DBS, or ensure that the responsible adult does not need to leave the court for any reason. Safeguarding of under 18's is the clubs responsibility.

SOCIAL MEDIA

What about social media?

With the increase in clubs and players using social media, it is important that all players and staff understand what is appropriate use of social media and what is not.

- If you don't have parents' consent, you cannot post images or videos of under 18's on any social media platform.
- Gaining written consent from parents is the most secure way to protect yourself and there is a template on the Basketball England website that you can use for this.
- No personal social media accounts of under 18's are to be used or tagged in club posts.
- Published squad lists can contain names of under 18's, however not when there are photos or any other personal details associated, without written permission from parents.
- If you see any derogatory comments on social media aimed at under 18's then this must be reported immediately, to childprotection@basketballengland.co.uk

To find out more, the guidelines for 'Appropriate communication' and 'Use of social media' can be found on the Basketball England website.

I don't have consent or I am not aware if I have consent to use or take a person's image, can I still use it?

No. If you do not have the consent from the person or their parent/guardian, you do not have the right to use that photo. This encompasses posting on social media, filming games/events and photos by official photographers. In doing so you may face sanctions by Basketball England.

Should I use a player's personal social media page in posts to advertise the club?

If the player is under the age of 18, then no. The reason for this is that this can identify the player not only online but also offline and potentially lead to that player being identified and contacted by unwanted or dangerous individuals.

If the player is over the age of 18, you should ask for permission to do so and they should be made aware of where and when it may be posted. Some players have professional pages that they have set up to advertise themselves, it would be more appropriate to use these instead of their personal pages.

More information can be found through our social media policy.

We are keen to advertise our squad lists; how can we do this correctly?

Identifying players within squad lists and photos is a great way to give players a sense of togetherness and belonging within a club, but you need to be careful as to what information is provided alongside a post on social media.

You should not be posting the names of players under the age of 18 alongside, photos, personal details, which includes, personal social media accounts, email addresses and dates of birth. The reason for this is that this can identify the player not only online but also offline and potentially lead to that player being identified and contacted by unwanted or dangerous individuals.

GUIDANCE FOR PLAYERS (UNDER 18's)

People are being horrible about me on social media – what should I do?

Messages sent to you which are hurtful and making you upset should be reported. There is an organisation which can give you advice about how to be safe online called Child Net. Their website will give you information on making sure you feel safe and secure online and on social media. If you feel like you need to report your concerns and your safety is at risk, you can report a concern through your local safeguarding officer or through Basketball England.

I am being bullied and don't know what to do. Where can I get help?

We're really sorry to hear that you are being bullied and it is affecting how much you enjoy basketball. Nobody has the right to hurt you or make you feel bad. Bullying can be in a range of different forms but the main ones are:

- being called names
- being teased, put down or humiliated
- being pushed or pulled about
- having money and other stuff taken
- having rumours spread about you
- being ignored and left out
- being hit, kicked or physically hurt
- being threatened or intimidated

If you feel that the above is happening to you, you should look for some support. This can be from adults, teachers, coaches and even your friends - you may not want to tell your friends the details but they can help support you when you are feeling down and help take your mind off it.

If you feel you are being bullied and would like more information you can visit our friends at the Anti Bullying Alliance who can give you some more information on what to do if you feel like you're being bullied. Childline also have a section on their website which can provide more support and guidance.

You can report your concerns to them, or to your local safeguarding officer, or to Basketball England and talk to us about what is happening and how we can help.

My coach is being mean to me, but they keep saying "it's just banter". I am not sure I can do anything.

Just because someone says it is just 'banter' or 'a joke', doesn't make it ok. Making jokes or having banter which makes people feel upset or sad is bullying.

I feel like I am under a lot of pressure and I am not enjoying basketball as much as I used too. What can I do?

Basketball can be a very competitive sport and you may feel pressured to perform well. This pressure could come from yourself, other players in your team, the coach or even your parents, but there a ways to make sure that basketball stays fun.

If you are feeling under pressure from your coach or parents, you should tell them how that pressure makes you feel. They simply may not be aware of how they are acting is making you feel and this should make them realise and make them adapt their ways. There are some top tips on how to cope with pressure:

- if a bad game affects your confidence, get out there quickly and start playing again
- focus on how YOU thought you played, not how anyone else thought you played
- give yourself time for things to get better
- if pressure keeps stopping you from enjoying it, you could try taking up a different sport or joining a different club or team
- remember it's ok to tell an adult you trust about pressure being too much.

You should always try as hard as you can as nobody can ask anymore of you if you do. You should always be proud of your efforts. If you have played well and you are happy with that, there is no need to compare yourself to any other players.

Childline has some great advice on how to build your confidence and self-esteem. This information can be found here.

What are my rights?

Knowing your rights as a child or young person can help you stay safe. Rights help us stay safe and get fair treatment. Some rights are given to you at certain ages – like being allowed to leave home or drive a car - and they can help you understand the law more and also assist you in making decisions.

A good place to find out more about your rights as a child or young person, Childline have a great section on their website which breaks them down into a simple way that makes it easier to understand. Find out about your rights here.

Are you a parent and want to know more?

Basketball England have a whole section dedicated to how parents can support their child, including FAQ's on keeping your child safe in basketball. If you still have questions, contact your local safeguarding officer.