

Yardley Defenders

Adult Safeguarding Policy

Adult safeguarding is protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

Policy Statement

Yardley Basketball Club believes that all adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice and to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.

Yardley Basketball Club acknowledges that ability and disability can change over time and that a disabled adult may or may not identify themselves or be identified as an adult 'at risk'.

CARE ACT 2014. An adult at risk is a person aged 18 or over who is in need of care and support regardless of whether these needs are being met and is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Yardley Basketball Club is committed to Safeguarding Adults in line with national legislation and relevant national and local guidelines and will safeguard adults by ensuring that our activities are delivered in a way which keeps all adults safe.

Yardley Basketball Club acknowledges that everyone in the club is responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of all adults and is committed to prevent abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all adults involved.

All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

All persons involved with Yardley Basketball Club will be made aware of the safeguarding adults procedures and know what to do and who to contact if they have a concern relating to the welfare or wellbeing of an adult.

All staff (paid/unpaid) working in sport have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer.

Policy Aims

The aim of the Club's Adult Safeguarding Policy is to promote good practice in line with advice from UK Sport, Sport England, Basketball England and NSPCC:

- Providing adult members with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the club
- Allow all staff/volunteers/players to make informed and confident responses to specific safeguarding issues.

TYPES OF ABUSE (Care Act 2014)

SELF NEGLECT includes a wide range of behaviours – neglect of personal hygiene, health or surroundings. In basketball this could be a player whose appearance becomes unkempt, does not wear suitable sports kit and deterioration in hygiene.

MODERN SLAVERY slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. In basketball you may notice that a player may have been missing from practice sessions and is not responding to reminders from team members or coaches.

DOMESTIC ABUSE including psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. It also includes 'honour' based violence, Sport may notice a power imbalance between a player and a family member.

PHYSICAL ABUSE including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions. This could be a coach intentionally striking an athlete.

SEXUAL ABUSE including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, and sexual assault or sexual acts the adult has not consented to or was pressured into consenting. This could be a fellow athlete who sends unwanted sexually explicit text messages to a learning disabled adult they are training alongside.

PSYCHOLOGICAL OR EMOTIONAL ABUSE including threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks. This could be an athlete threatening another athlete with physical harm and persistently blaming them for poor performance.

FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL ABUSE including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to financial affairs, misuse or misappropriation of property or wills.

NEGLECT AND ACTS OF OMISSION including withholding the necessities of life such as medication, food or warmth, ignoring medical or physical care needs. This could be a coach not ensuring athletes have access to water.

DISCRIMINATORY ABUSE including discrimination on grounds of race, gender and gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, religion and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment. This could be the harassment of a club member because they are or are perceived to be transgender. (See also our Equality & Diversity Policy)

ORGANISATIONAL ABUSE including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, or in relation to care provided in a person's own home. It could relate to a one-off incident of on-going mistreatment. It can be due to neglect or poor professional practice. In basketball it could be training without a necessary break.

OTHER TYPES OF ABUSE TO LOOK OUT FOR ARE CYBER BULLYING, FORCED MARRIAGE, MATE CRIME, RADICALISATION.

Promoting Good Practice

Basketball England expects that coaches of adult athletes:

- Adopt and endorse the Basketball England Coaches Codes of Conduct
- Have completed a course in basic awareness in working with Adults at Risk

Everyone should

- Aim to make the experience of Yardley Basketball Club fun and enjoyable
- Promote fairness and playing by the rules
- Not tolerate the use of prohibited or illegal substances
- Treat all adults equally and preserve their dignity; this includes giving more or less talented members of a group similar attention, time and respect.

Coaches and those working with adults at risk should

- Respect the developmental stage of each athlete and not risk sacrificing their welfare in a desire for team or personal achievement.
- Ensure that the training intensity is appropriate to the physical, social and emotional stage of the development of the athlete.
- Work with adults at risk, medical adviser and their carers (where appropriate) to develop realistic training and competition schedules which are suited to the needs and lifestyle of the athlete, not the ambitions of others such as coaches, team members, parents or carers.
- Build relationships based on mutual trust and respect, encouraging adults at risk to take responsibility for their own development and decision-making.
- Always be publicly open when working with adults at risk – avoid coaching sessions or meetings where a coach and an individual athlete are completely unobserved.
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with people. Physical contact (touching) can be appropriate so long as – it is neither intrusive nor disturbing – the athlete’s permission has been openly given – it is delivered in an open environment – it is needed to demonstrate during a coaching session.
- Maintain a safe and appropriate relationship with athletes and avoid forming intimate relationships with athletes you are working with as this may threaten the position of trust and respect present between athlete and coach.
- Be an excellent role model by maintaining appropriate standards of behaviour
- Gain the adult at risk consent and, where appropriate, the consent of the relevant carers, in writing, to administer emergency first aid or other medical treatment if the need arises.
- Be aware of medical conditions, disabilities, existing injuries and medicines being taken and keep written records of any injury or accident that occurs, together with details of treatments provided.
- Arrange that someone with current knowledge of emergency first aid is available at all times.
- Gain written consent from the correct people and fill out the relevant checklists and information forms for travel arrangements and trips. This must be the adult themselves if they have the capacity to do so.

Poor Practice

The following are regarded as poor practice and should be avoided:

- Unnecessarily spending excessive amounts of time alone with an individual adult
- Engaging in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- Allowing or engaging in inappropriate touching of any form
- Using language that might be regarded as inappropriate by the adult and which may be hurtful or disrespectful
- Making sexually suggestive comments, even in jest
- Reducing an adult to tears as a form of control
- Letting allegations made by an adult go uninvestigated, unrecorded, or not acted upon

- Taking an adult at risk alone in a car on journeys, however short
- Inviting or taking an adult at risk to your home or office where they will be alone with you
- Sharing a room with an adult at risk
- Doing things of a personal nature that adults at risk can do for themselves

At times it may be necessary to do some of the above. These tasks should only be carried out with the full understanding and consent of the adult at risk and their carers and ensure that the Lead Safeguarding Officer of your organisation is aware of the situation and gives their authorisation.