

England Netball have been maintaining their audit checks to ensure the club safeguarding officers (CSO) in clubs with ANY junior member (under 18), have DBS checks in place. We are in a far better place now with just three teams outstanding.

Many thanks to all the clubs and teams who have proactively put everything in place to be compliant 😊 Hopefully now most are aware with what is needed so getting things set up for the new season should be simple.

I have had a couple enquiries from the leagues over the season in relation to support with creating safeguarding rules and regulations for leagues.

My advice would be to use the South Region rules as guidance and try not to overcomplicate things by catering for multiple scenarios (in relation to safeguarding). This is the link to the South Region Competition Handbook: [Microsoft Word - 1. NS-Regional-Competition Handbook 2024-25 v1](#)

My role is to support CSOs within the county in relation to **giving advice** about the Wellbeing, Safeguarding and Protection of all members, promoting good practice and Safeguarding within Clubs and Leagues and to work with others towards the safest and most inclusive environments. I do not conduct investigations myself, but may support England Netball if requested by them.

For advice and guidance on safeguarding there are useful resources on the England Netball website under Safeguarding. <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/governance/safeguarding>

Here you will find new sections for clubs, players, coaches and parents as well as new guidance documents including on how to recognise and respond to abuse and poor practice and some case examples.

It is important to highlight that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and every volunteer should remain vigilant and challenge any concerning behaviour. Safeguarding shouldn't just be there for when something goes wrong. It should be embedded into everything the club and league does.

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