

England Netball has been diligently conducting audit checks to ensure that club safeguarding officers (CSOs) in every club with junior members (under 18) hold valid, up-to-date DBS checks. I am pleased to share that we have made significant headway in this important area, with only one team or club still outstanding. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for their ongoing dedication to compliance and their vigilance in upholding our safeguarding standards. Your commitment truly makes a difference.

We have noticed a communication gap with some clubs and teams whereby, the CSO email addresses listed on Engage are either inaccurate or outdated, resulting in important messages being missed or diverted into junk folders. I kindly ask that you take a moment to verify your CSO's email address is both correct and current, and that your email settings are configured so critical information does not get lost. These small actions ensure that safeguarding updates and essential guidance reach the right people at the right time.

This season, I have addressed a handful of incidents across clubs, with the most common issue being non-compliance with the codes of conduct. This is not limited to players—it also extends to parents, spectators, and coaches. I urge you to prioritise sharing the expectations and responsibilities outlined in the codes of conduct with everyone involved in your clubs and teams. Taking time to revisit these minimum standards benefits everyone and helps maintain netball as a welcoming and positive experience for all, allowing our sport to flourish.

To support you, the latest Codes of Conduct are available in the attached document:
[Codes of conduct - 2025 pdf.pdf](#)

For advice and guidance on safeguarding there are useful resources on the England Netball website under Safeguarding. <https://www.englandnetball.co.uk/governance/safeguarding>
The website includes new sections tailored for clubs, players, coaches, and parents, and features updated guidance documents. These resources include advice on recognising and responding to abuse or poor practice, as well as helpful case examples that provide greater context and understanding.

It is vital to remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every volunteer, regardless of their role, should remain observant and be prepared to challenge any behaviour that causes concern. Safeguarding should be woven into the fabric of all club and league activities—not just something we consider when a problem arises. By fostering a proactive culture of awareness and responsibility, we help protect everyone involved in our sport.

If you have any queries or require further support, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at berkssafeguarding@gmail.com. Together, let's continue to make netball a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for all.

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You can contact me on berkssafeguarding@gmail.com