



St Helens & St Helens Bees Netball Club Health & Safety Policy 2026 - 2027

1. Purpose & Commitment

St Helens & St Helens Bees Netball Club is committed to providing safe, well-managed environments for players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents/carers and spectators. We adopt England Netball's **Risk Management Essentials** approach and minimum operating standards, including formal and dynamic risk assessment, appropriate first aid provision, and robust safeguarding. [[help.centr...ball.co.uk](#)], [[englandnet...assian.net](#)], [[englandnetball.co.uk](#)]

2. Scope & Responsibilities

Shared responsibility

Safety is everyone's responsibility: committee, coaches, team managers, welfare officers, umpires, players, parents/carers, volunteers and event partners. England Netball states that **every registered club and organiser must manage risk and conduct safety checks**; our policy implements those expectations locally. [[help.centr...ball.co.uk](#)]

Specific roles

- **Club Committee (incl. H&S Officer):** approves policy; ensures risk assessments (RAs), EAPs, training and equipment budgets are in place. [[help.centr...ball.co.uk](#)]
- **Coaches/Session Leads/Umpires:** complete dynamic checks before every session; enforce safety rules and attire requirements; know the EAP and first aid arrangements. [[help.centr...ball.co.uk](#)], [[englandnet...assian.net](#)]
- **Welfare/Safeguarding Officer:** leads on safeguarding, DBS and reporting procedures per England Netball policies. [[englandnetball.co.uk](#)], [[sparks-netball.co.uk](#)]
- **First Aider (designated each session):** provides immediate care, maintains first-aid kit, and completes accident/incident records. [[englandnet...assian.net](#)]
- **Parents/Carers & Players:** follow codes of conduct and sign-in/out requirements; disclose relevant medical information. [[d2cx26qpfw...dfront.net](#)]



3. Risk Management

3.1 Formal Risk Assessments

- **Annually** for each **activity type and venue** we use; **earlier** if there is a material change (e.g., new venue/equipment).
- Our current master RA covers: Sutton Leisure Centre; De La Salle School; Rainhill High; Ball Hall Warrington; Cardinal Newman School; Broomfields Leisure Centre; and event-specific risks (e.g., NetballHer). ([See: Bees Netball Risk Assessment 25-26](#)), [[help.centr...ball.co.uk](#)]
- Formal RAs are **recorded and stored securely** (digital and/or hard copy) and **reviewed** on or before the RA review date. [[help.centr...ball.co.uk](#)]

3.2 Dynamic Risk Assessments (pre-session)

- Conducted **before every session/match**, checking playing surface, runoff, posts, weather (for outdoor), space separation, spectator encroachment, and emergency access.
- **If hazards cannot be controlled to a safe level, the session must not proceed.** [[help.centr...ball.co.uk](#)]

3.3 Reference to Bees Risk Register

The Clubs RA identifies typical hazards—slips/trips, equipment condition, clashes in warm-ups, toilets, evacuation, leaving facilities, collisions, space conflicts across adjacent courts, parental encroachment, and wet/outdoor surfaces—with controls and residual risk ratings. This policy mandates those controls as **minimum standards** at every relevant venue/activity. ([See: Bees Netball Risk Assessment 25-26](#))

4. Venue, Equipment & Environmental Safety

- **Playing Area & Run-offs:** Courts must be clean, dry and free of debris; runoff distances appropriate for level of play; no play on **wet/slippery** outdoor courts; indoor spills must be cleared immediately. [[getberkshi...active.org](#)]
- **Posts & Equipment:** Posts inspected for correctness/stability; consider wind for freestanding posts; faulty kit removed from service. Regular checks logged by coach/event lead. [[getberkshi...active.org](#)]
- **Space Management:** Use curtains where available; control ball retrieval across courts; manage spectator locations to protect end lines. ([See: Bees Netball Risk Assessment 25-26](#))
- **Emergency Access & Exits:** Keep vehicle access routes and fire exits clear; all staff/volunteers and players briefed on the venue's EAP and evacuation points. [[getberkshi...active.org](#)]

5. First Aid, Emergencies & Incident Reporting

5.1 First Aid Provision

- A **trained First Aider** must be **on site for all Bees activities**—either provided by the venue or by the club—per England Netball minimum standards. A **stocked first-aid kit** must be available. [\[englandnet...assian.net\]](#)
- Coaches at Level 2+ are expected to hold current first-aid certification; the club verifies currency rather than assumes. [\[englandnet...assian.net\]](#), [\[d2cx26qpfw...dfront.net\]](#)

5.2 Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

- The club maintains **venue-specific EAPs** (medical emergencies, fire/evacuation, adverse weather, lightning), accessible to coaches and volunteers, with key details (postcode, defib location, nearest A&E/urgent care, assembly point, emergency contacts). EAPs are **reviewed and briefed** pre-season and after any incident/changes. [\[reactfirst.co.uk\]](#), [\[panthersel...etball.com\]](#)

5.3 Accident/Incident Recording & Retention

- All incidents/accidents/near misses are recorded in the club's **Accident/Incident Log**; **RIDDOR** thresholds are observed where applicable (e.g., specified injuries, over-7-day incapacitation), and records are kept in line with HSE guidance.
- We retain accident records **for a minimum of six years** to defend potential civil claims (best practice), and at least **three years** to meet statutory minima where applicable. [\[hse.gov.uk\]](#), [\[hse.gov.uk\]](#), [\[Statutory...ates.co.uk\]](#)

6. Player Safety & Conduct

6.1 Attire & Personal Safety (Rules-consistent)

- **Footwear:** Netball-appropriate trainers with good grip must be worn. (Part of our court safety control and standard practice in EN-compliant leagues.) [\[birmingham...club.co.uk\]](#)
- **Jewellery:** Only a **plain wedding band** or **medical alert bracelet** may be worn and **must be taped/covered**; **all other jewellery must be removed** before participation. [\[play-netball.co.uk\]](#), [\[netballnights.com\]](#)
- **Fingernails: Short and smooth**—players may be prevented from taking court if non-compliant. [\[play-netball.co.uk\]](#)
- **Head coverings, gloves, eyewear (domestic guidance):** Permitted only in line with **England Netball Domestic Guidance**—e.g., medically warranted **thin, plain** gloves without hard fasteners; soft head coverings without embellishments; umpires must ensure no hazard is presented. Medical certificates may be requested. [\[londonands...ball.co.uk\]](#)

6.2 Physical Preparation

Every session includes **structured warm-ups and cool-downs** aligned to age and stage to reduce injury risk; coaches supervise warm-ups to avoid unsafe practices and collisions. (See: [Bees Netball Risk Assessment 25-26](#))

6.3 Medical Information & Data Protection

- On joining (and annually thereafter), players/parents provide **medical and emergency contact information**, stored securely and shared on a **need-to-know** basis to support duty of care. (Cross-refer Safeguarding and GDPR practices.) [\[englandnetball.co.uk\]](#)

6.4 Codes of Conduct

- All members, parents/carers and volunteers sign and follow **England Netball's Codes of Conduct** (respect, fair play, safety, social media). Breaches are handled per EN Disciplinary Regulations or at club level as appropriate. [\[d2cx26qpfw...dfront.net\]](#)

7. Safeguarding (Children, Young People & Adults at Risk)

- The club adopts England Netball's **Safeguarding Children and Young People** and **Safeguarding Adults at Risk** policies, including safer recruitment, DBS, reporting concerns, ratios, trips guidance, photography/consent, and information-sharing. Welfare concerns are escalated via the Club Welfare Officer and England Netball's reporting routes. [\[sparks-netball.co.uk\]](#), [\[leedsathle...lub.org.uk\]](#), [\[englandnetball.co.uk\]](#), [\[d2cx26qpfw...dfront.net\]](#)

8. Event-Specific Controls (e.g., NetballHer)

For table-top/community events (e.g., stalls, sign-ups), we implement the additional controls in the Bees RA—**manual handling, tripping hazards (wires, table legs), furniture stability, and crowd management**—with pre-event walk-throughs, cable protection, correct layout and appropriate staffing. (See: [Bees Netball Risk Assessment 25-26](#))

9. Training & Briefings

- Annual pre-season briefing for coaches/volunteers on: dynamic RA checklist, venue EAPs, first aid arrangements, safeguarding updates, and attire enforcement.
- Maintain a register of **first-aid, safeguarding and DBS** status for relevant roles; ensure renewals are tracked. [\[englandnet...assian.net\]](#), [\[d2cx26qpfw...dfront.net\]](#)

10. Insurance & Affiliation

- Bees activities are run in accordance with England Netball **recognised and authorised** activity standards so that participants are protected under the centrally



arranged insurance programme. (Clubs must comply with EN policy and guidance as referenced above.) [\[help.cent...ball.co.uk\]](#)

11. Review & Continuous Improvement

- **Policy review:** annually each September (or sooner after serious incidents, guidance changes, or venue changes).
- **RA review:** as per RA schedule (currently due **24/09/2026**) and after material changes or incidents.

Appendix A — Dynamic RA Pre-Session Checklist (summary)

- Surface dry/clean; no debris; adequate run-offs.
- Posts stable/secure; court lines visible; space separation (curtains where available).
- Spectators positioned safely; end lines kept clear.
- First-aid kit on court; designated First Aider; AED location known.
- Access/egress clear; EAP understood (include lightning/wet weather decision points).
- Attire checks: trainers, **no jewellery** except taped wedding band/medical bracelet, **short nails**. [\[getberkshi...active.org\]](#), [\[englandnet...assian.net\]](#), [\[netballnights.com\]](#), [\[play-netball.co.uk\]](#)

Compliance statement (England Netball)

This policy implements England Netball's published guidance on **risk management and first aid**, adopts their **safeguarding policies** and **Codes of Conduct**, and reflects **domestic guidance** on match personnel and attire. Where England Netball updates guidance, the club will update this policy and communicate changes to all members. [\[help.cent...ball.co.uk\]](#), [\[englandnet...assian.net\]](#), [\[englandnetball.co.uk\]](#), [\[sparks-netball.co.uk\]](#), [\[londonands...ball.co.uk\]](#)

How this policy embeds your current Risk Assessment

- **Venues/equipment/environmental controls:** lifted from your 2025–26 RA and set as mandatory controls (e.g., wet court cancellation, posts inspection, space/spectator management). (See: [Bees Netball Risk Assessment 25-26](#))
- **Event-specific risks (NetballHer):** included as policy requirements (manual handling, table stability, trip prevention, crowding). (See: [Bees Netball Risk Assessment 25-26](#))
- **Accident recording & retention:** clarified against HSE standards (RIDDOR/Accident Book) and extended to 6-year retention for claim defensibility. [\[hse.gov.uk\]](#), [\[hse.gov.uk\]](#), [\[Statutory...ates.co.uk\]](#)

Signed:



Andrew Halfpenny (IOSH) St Helens & St Helens Bees Committee Member: Quality Assurance