



Magpies Netball Club Inc.

Risk Management at the Courts

The following information has been obtained from the Foundation Coaching Course and provides an outline of risk management considerations whilst at netball.

Risk Management

Managing the risks associated with coaching netball is all about planning. Planning helps to keep everyone safe. Plan for the activity, the equipment to be used, how you will supervise the activity, whether it is suitable for the age and stage of development of the players, and who will participate.

Risk management also requires you to understand how to maintain a child safe environment. That involves making sure children are supervised by a responsible adult at all times, especially if they go off for a toilet break, knowing who the adults are at your training sessions and why they are there, and having an effective system for safe drop-off and pick-up.

Court space

Make sure the court space is free of any obstacles (such as bags, clothing, shoes), or debris (such as glass, stones), the posts have pads, and your activities are planned for safety. That means having enough space to avoid collisions with other players or playing equipment, and making sure the space you use is matched to the age and skill level of your players.

Equipment

Use age-appropriate equipment. Size 4 balls and modified goal rings for NetSetGo players, size 5 for juniors and seniors. Equipment should be well maintained, balls pumped up, and old or defective equipment should be replaced.

Surface

All playing and training surfaces need to be suitable for the activity and regularly maintained to avoid injuries. Also be sure to clear debris and identify hazards such as holes or cracks. If any part of the training or playing surface is not safe, you should avoid that area until it is repaired. Be prepared to modify your session plan to accommodate any restrictions caused by an inappropriate playing surface or damaged equipment.

Readiness for activity

Warmups, incorporating the Netball Australia Knee Program are crucial for training sessions, and on game day. They make sure that the players are ready to take part in physical activity. You should also be aware of any injuries your players either have, or are recovering from, and make sure that their participation in activities will not exacerbate the injury. Make sure that players are well matched for body size and age during activities. And if you coach players with a disability, be aware of how this might impact on their participation in activities and games, and if necessary, modify their participation for safety.

First aid

Make sure you have an adequate first aid kit, and that you're aware of your club or organisation's protocols and procedures for injury management and emergencies. See the first aid policy of MNC.

Pick-up and drop-off

NEVER leave children alone to be picked up. Always supervise children until parents arrive. This should be in an open, clearly visible area. You may also consider asking the second last parent/guardian who arrives at pick up to remain with you until the parent/guardian of the last child arrives.

Child safe environment

Work towards creating and maintaining a child safe environment and report any incidents that you believe may jeopardise a child's emotional or physical safety. For more information about Child Safe Environments, go to www.playbytherules.net.au. Also refer to the Netball Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People policy.

Sourced from Netball Australia Foundation Coaching Accreditation Course 1/4/24