**Safeguarding Policy**

Everyone who participates in Welsh Netball activities is entitled to do so in an enjoyable and safe environment. Welsh Netball and its clubs have a moral and legal obligation to ensure that, when given responsibility for children, coaches and volunteers provide them with the highest possible standard of care.

Welsh Netball is committed to devising and implementing policies so that everyone in the sport accepts their responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable people from harm and abuse. This means following procedures to protect children and vulnerable people and to report any concerns about their welfare to appropriate authorities. **Wales Netball’s Safeguarding Lead if Laura Milford (02920334951 OR safeguarding@walesnetball.com)**

The aim of the policy is to promote good practice, providing children and young people with appropriate safety/protection whilst in the care of Welsh Netball and to allow staff and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues. A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (Children Act 1989, 2004).

**Policy Statement**

Welsh Netball is committed to the following:

* The welfare of the child is paramount.
* All children, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief and/or sexual identity should be able to participate in Netball in a fun and safe environment.
* Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings.
* All suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
* All Welsh Netball employees and other volunteers who work with children will be recruited with regard to their suitability for that responsibility and will be provided with guidance and/or training in good practice and child protection procedures.
* Working in partnership with parents and children is essential for the protection of children.

This Child Protection Policy will be reviewed every 3 years or whenever there is a major change in the organisation or in relevant legislation.

Legal and Procedural Framework

The practices and procedures within this policy are based on principles contained within Welsh, UK and International legislation and Government guidance.

* The Children Act 1989 & 2004.
* The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
* Human Rights Act (1998)
* The Data Protection Act (1998)
* Sexual Offences Act (2003)
* Safeguarding Children: Working Together Under the Children Act (2004)
* Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006)
* All Wales Child Protection Procedures (2008)
* Protection of Freedoms Act (2012)
* Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014)