



## EASTERN DISTRICTS NETBALL ASSOCIATION

### Risk Management Strategy

#### Review History of EDNA RMS and MPP

Version	Date Reviewed	Date Endorsed	Purpose of Review
1		April 2011	
2	August 2013	August 2013	Update
3	April 2015	April 2015	Update and change to police check policy
4	May 2016	May 2016	Update Blood rule

#### **Introduction**

Eastern Districts Netball Association Incorporated (EDNA) provides a junior and senior netball outdoor competition for adults and children. As an organisation, EDNA observes and gives effects to the following principles:

- The welfare of all players, coaches, umpires and officials is paramount.
- All adults and children, regardless of their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse.
- All players, coaches, umpires and officials have a responsibility to report concerns to EDNA's Child Safe Officer.
- All Concerns will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

The following document will show that EDNA has undertaken all steps possible to ensure the safety of our children, young people and all involved within our Association.

#### **Child Safe Policy**

EDNA is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people accessing our service. We support the rights of a child and will act without hesitation to ensure a child safe environment is maintained at all times.

We also support the rights and wellbeing of our officials, umpires, coaches and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants.

A child is any person under 18 years of age.



## **Bullying and Harassment**

Bullying and harassment is the repeated oppression, psychological and/or physical aggravation of a less powerful person by another person or group of persons. EDNA considers bullying as an inappropriate behaviour and will take all allegations seriously. Anyone with concerns about bullying or harassment should report this in this first instance to their club officials and if necessary to EDNA's Child Safe Officer.

If any person feels they are being harassed or discriminated against by another person or organisation bound by this "Complaints & Appeals". This will explain what to do about the behaviour and how EDNA will deal with the problem.

## **Affiliated Club Responsibilities**

- Action policy and procedure as set out by EDNA in the Risk Management Strategy.
- Commit to a fair and safe culture.
- Encourage all coaches to undertake training using the Australian Sports Commission online courses.
- Ensure a First Aid Kit is supplied for each of their teams.
- Ensure the equipment they supply as per EDNA's By-Laws is in good condition.
- Clubs must set their own policies and procedures regarding coaches and one on one time with a child.
- Implement background checks as set out by EDNA.

## **Official, Coaches and Umpires Responsibilities**

- Be aware of child protection
- Be aware that coaches and umpires should seek permission before assisting/touching children with uniform/bib issues.
- Be aware that permission should be sought before treating injuries.
- Always work in an open environment, avoiding private or unobserved situations, and encourage open communication.
- Give enthusiastic and constructive feedback, rather than negative criticism.
- Be aware that all volunteers have a legal obligation to report any suspected child abuse/neglect to EDNA's Child Safe Officer or the Child Abuse Report Hotline on 131 478.
- Adopt policy and procedures as set out by EDNA in the Risk Management Strategy.
- Abide by Codes of Conducts.
- Ensure the courts are safe and equipment is in good working order.

## **Parents and Spectators Responsibilities**

- Be aware of child protection.
- Expectation of child safe environment.
- Be a good role model.
- Abide by Codes of Conducts.



## **Codes of Conduct**

EDNA has a zero tolerance policy towards all unsportsmanlike behaviour. This includes but is not limited to, violence, foul language and/or harassment towards players, coaches, parents, spectators or officials and is not acceptable. (See Fines in By-Laws).

**Note: While within EDNA's court areas, all players, coaches, parents and spectators are representing their clubs and shall be accountable for their actions.**

### **Players Code**

1. Learn the rules of the game and play fairly by them at all times.
2. Work hard for your team; your team's performance will benefit and so will your own.
3. Be a good sport, cheer all good play whether it is by your team or the opposition.
4. Treat all players as you yourself would like to be treated.
5. Never argue with an official. If you require clarification, have your captain or coach approach the official during a break or after the game.
6. Cooperate with your coach, team mates, opponents and officials at all times; without them there would be no game.

### **Parent/Spectator Code**

1. Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports. If they want to play and join a team, then don't like it, encourage them to do their best, finish the season and not let the team down.
2. Remember, children are involved in organised sports for their enjoyment, not yours.
3. Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
4. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory, so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
5. Remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good performance and focus on the efforts by your team and the opponents, rather than the overall game's outcome.
6. Respect the official's decision. If you disagree with an official raise the issue through the appropriate channels, rather than question the official's judgement and honesty in public. Remember, most officials give their time and effort for the participant's involvement.

### **Coaches Code**

1. Remember that children participate for pleasure and that winning is only part of the fun. Never ridicule or yell at the children for making mistakes or losing a competition.
2. Coaching comments should consist of positive reinforcement and avoiding negative comments at all costs.
3. Avoid over-playing the talented players; all players need and deserve equal time.
4. Provide suitable rotation opportunities for players in positions.
5. Develop team respect for the ability of players within your own team, the opposition, as well as judgement of officials and opposing coaches.
6. Be a positive role model for your players and the sport.
7. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and with the rules of the game, constitution and by-laws.



### Umpires and Official Code

1. Provide a safe environment, so everyone can enjoy the game.
2. Maintain professionalism through dress code, equity and punctuality.
3. Enjoy yourself and enjoy what you do.
4. Develop a rapport with players, but remain impartial and maintain integrity in your relationship with players, coaches and other umpires.
5. Don't allow team issues and sideline distractions to affect your umpiring – stay focused.
6. Accept responsibility for all actions taken.
7. Be current with umpiring procedures and protocols and apply them effectively and efficiently.
8. Treat everyone involved in the game as you yourself would like to be treated.

### Recruitment of Volunteer Coaches

EDNA recognises that anyone may have the potential to abuse children in some way and that all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure unsuitable people are prevented from working with children.

To become an Affiliated Club with EDNA, the club must agree to have all coaches police checked. Either a National Criminal History Check or a DCSI screening and background check are the acceptable checks. Each club must complete EDNA's Police check form with details of each coaches current Police, DCSI check (or exemption status) and sign a declaration that the coach is suitable to work with children. This form needs to be submitted before the beginning of each season.

### Exemptions – as per SA Government recommendations

A coach under the age of 18 years is exempt from the check.

A coach whose child is playing in the team they are coaching is exempt from the check.

### Police Check Procedure

Each volunteer needs to download the instruction sheet from the EDNA website. After the volunteer has completed the National Criminal History Check and had it verified by a Police Officer, the form needs to be returned to an Executive Committee Member at either Phillis Street, Lothian Avenue or Emery Road. The Executive Committee will then endorse the National Criminal History Check and submit it to the Records Release Unit.

The completed National Criminal History Check is mailed to the volunteer. The volunteer needs to have this check sighted by their club who will make a determination regarding the volunteer's suitability to work with children. Each volunteer is required to undergo a new check every three (3) years. The club will advise EDNA via the Police check form each season of these details.

### DCSI

The Dept of Communities and Social Inclusion now has a new check that all school volunteers are required to undertake. Volunteers required to undertake this check should see their club co-ordinator for instructions on how to undertake. The cost for this check is the responsibility of the volunteer or their club. The volunteer needs to have this check sighted by their club who will make a determination regarding the volunteers suitability to work with children. Each volunteer is required to undergo a new check every three (3) years. The club will advise EDNA via the Police check form each season of these details



### Procedure for Dealing with a Negative Police Check

Where a negative National Criminal History Check is returned the affiliated club should seek further reference checks for the volunteer. With the further information, the affiliated club must take the responsibility as to whether the volunteer is given a coaching role. If a coaching role is offered, the club must provide the reasons for their decision in writing to EDNA who reserve the right to overturn this decision.

### Training of Coaches

- EDNA recognises the importance of supporting volunteer coaches with training and recommends that all clubs encourage their coaches to undertake Australian Sports Commission online coaching courses.

### Training of Umpires

EDNA conducts an Umpire's Evening on a regular basis, where umpires are given the opportunity to raise any issues and ask for clarification on rules and interpretations.

Umpires are also encouraged to undertake the Australian Sports Commission online officiating courses.

EDNA also provides mentors for young umpires and support is available from the Court Supervisor on match day.

### Procedure for Dealing with Complain and Appeals

In the first instance, you are encouraged to approach your Court Supervisor during the game and see if the problem can be sorted out immediately.

All complaints or appeals need to be:

- In writing.
- Signed by the complainant.
- Counter signed by the Club Secretary or Club President.
- Set out fully with all appropriate facts.
- Received by the Administrative Officer within three (3) days of the event causing the complaint.

The Administrative Officer will:

- Acknowledge receipt to the complainant Club Secretary.
- Discuss with the Executive Committee Meeting to evaluate the complaint.
- Take any other action deemed necessary.

The Executive Committee may reject a complaint for:

- Lack of fact.
- Irrelevance of facts.

All decisions of complaints to be ratified by full Council.

Where the complaint is a child protection issue involving suspected abuse/neglect, the Child Safe Officer will report the concerns to the Department of Families and Communities and full confidentiality will be maintained of all parties, the complainant, the child and the accused.



### **Weather Policy** (Extracted from By-Laws)

Heat: If the forecasted temperature in The Advertiser on the morning of matches is 35C or above, ALL Netta and Primary matches are abandoned, (See Abandoned Match in By-Laws). Sub-Junior and Juniors, if the forecasted temperature in the Advertiser on the morning of the matches is 35C or above, all games will be played however quarters will be reduced by two (2) minutes. Senior matches will still be scheduled with the decision to forfeit or abandon matches left up to individual Teams/Clubs. (See Forfeit and Abandoned Match in By-Laws).

Rain: Matches are NOT abandoned due to wet weather. Umpires/Court Supervisors can suspend/abandon play in individual matches during Hail or Lightning Conditions.

Extreme Conditions: If the Executive deems the weather conditions to be unsafe for players and officials, notification will be made to the Club Delegates via email 24 hours before commencement of games. All matches will be declared abandoned. (See Abandon Match in By-Laws).

### **Blood Rule Policy**

No player who is bleeding or has blood on his/her person or uniform is permitted to remain on court.

#### **Procedure**

Hold play for up to 30 seconds whilst the player leaves the court. A substitution or team changes are permitted by either team.

If no substitution is undertaken, the player may take the court again after a goal is scored or after a quarter break, providing the bleeding has stopped, the wound is covered and surface blood has been washed off.

In the case of blood on the uniform or bib, if it cannot be washed out completely, the player(s) must replace the uniform or bib before continuing. If a replacement uniform or bib not available, player(s) are permitted to play in any suitable clothing and even without a bib.

### **Photography**

If someone is seen to be taking photographs inappropriately and is not associated with any club, the Court Supervisor is then to be advised and to take appropriate action.

No flash photography during ALL matches.

