



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 Injury & Illness in line with new rules
5	May 2018	Dec 2018	Weather & complaints/reports policy updated
6		Feb 2019	Age hot weather policy altered

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.

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 of these details via the Police check form each season.

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 of these details via the Police check form each season.

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 and 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.

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 complaints/reports policy)

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.

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

Procedure for Dealing with Complains 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. (see complaints, report & appeals policy)

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 on BOM (Bureau of Meteorology) at 8am on the morning of the matches is 35deg C or above **ALL Netta & Primary** matches are abandoned. (CANCELLED)
(See Abandoned Match)

Sub-junior & Junior games will still be played however quarters will be reduced by 2 minutes.

Senior matches will still be scheduled with the decision to Forfeit or Abandon matches left up to individual Teams/Clubs.
(See Forfeit) (See Abandoned Match)

RAIN

Matches are **NOT** abandoned due to wet weather.
Umpires/Court Supervisors can suspend/abandon play in individual matches while HAIL or LIGHTNING is present.

EXTREME CONDITIONS

HEAT AGE competition – In the event of extreme hot weather conditions the Executive will decide if matches will be abandoned. A notification will be added to EDNA Facebook at 4pm.

Extreme weather condition forfeits need to be made before 4pm to avoid a fine.

Winter – If the Executive deems the weather conditions are considered to be unsafe for players and or officials, notification will be made on EDNA Facebook 1 (one) hour before commencement of first game. All matches will be declared abandoned. (See Abandoned Match)

NOTE: Everyone (coordinators, coaches, umpires & parents) has a duty of care to players. Individual teams still have the option of forfeiting or parents removing a child from the competition. (EDNA does not hold medical records of individuals)

Injury/Blood Rule Policy

Procedure

In competitive matches:

The umpires hold time for blood when noticed or for injury/illness when requested by an on-court player. (in extreme circumstances the umpires may hold time without a request being made.)

The player concerned must leave the court within 30 seconds and receive any treatment OFF the court.

During the stoppage both teams may make substitutions and/or team changes, provided they are completed within the time allowed.

If no substitution is made for the injured/ill/bleeding player, play must resume with the position left vacant.

If the position is left vacant the player concerned or a substitute may subsequently, after advising the umpire take the court immediately following; a goal (to fill the vacant position) or any position at injury stoppage or an interval.

Only primary care person/s are permitted on the court to assess the players medical condition and to assist the player from the court. EDNA coaches are permitted to be the Primary Care Personnel.

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.

Acceptable Risk?

When playing any sport you are voluntarily exposing yourself to a variety of risks for the sake of fun. YOU must decide whether the risks you choose to take are ACCEPTABLE risks to YOU / YOUR child.

If players / coaches wish to forfeit their match they are free to do so. If both teams agree, each team will be awarded 0 points and 0 percentage. If only one team wishes to cancel, they will receive no points, opposition 4 points and highest score of the section for that round.

If parents do not want their children to play for whatever reason, they obviously have that option. "Peer pressure" is less relevant than your child's perceived safety.

Please do not question our legal and moral responsibilities OR our "insurance cover". **Our decision will always be a balance between the enthusiasm of players who generally want to play, and their health and safety which is paramount.**