



# Striving for Equality in Netball

## A Sports Equity Policy for Predators Netball Club

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### INTRODUCTION

This policy has been produced by Predators Netball Club to provide a framework for club members and people looking to join a local netball club. This will help to implement a co-ordinated approach to sports equity and ultimately providing more opportunities for all people to take part in netball throughout the Cornwall area.

The policy will be adopted by Predators Netball Club and implemented as part of the Club action planning to ensure that the programme is equally accessible for young people with the ability and desire to progress in sport throughout the local area.

It is intended that the recommendations contained in this policy will have far wider implications for local communities and will impact upon anyone providing netball opportunities in the Cornwall area, including voluntary and commercial organisations and individuals.

### WHAT IS SPORTS EQUITY?

“Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure that it becomes equally accessible to all members of society, whatever their age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality or social/economic status.”

*(Sport England Club For All Programme)*

It cannot be assumed that any sport is open and accessible to all members of the community. Sport England through previous and ongoing research predominately recognises five key priority groups within the sporting community who have traditionally not participated either as players, coaches, officials or volunteers:

- Young People
- Women & Girls
- Black, Asian and other ethnic minorities
- Disabled people
- Socio-economically disadvantaged

The adoption and implementation of a sports equity policy and action plans are necessary, to eliminate discrimination (either conscious or unconscious) and to provide all individuals with equality of opportunity and choice.

### WHY A POLICY?

There is very little understanding about sports equity issues throughout the club and the county. Whilst there are some excellent projects re-addressing some of the inequalities that exist, there is a lack of awareness, co-ordination and information available which ultimately leads to a lack of understanding.

Sport England, through the Active Sports programme, has started to challenge our delivery of sports activity to ensure fairness and opportunity is underpinned throughout. It is essential therefore, that

Predators Netball Club has effective equity policies and action plans in place to support this programme.

The aim of this policy to highlight issues and to offer guidance for those engaged in the administration and organisation of sport. This will lead to the development of working practices that promote equality and demonstrate a clear commitment to positive action, where an imbalance in that service delivery has been proven or recognised which will improve opportunities for all.



### **SPORTS EQUITY STATEMENT FOR PREDATORS NETBALL CLUB**

Predators Netball Club recognises the role that sport has in improving the quality of life, and, by embracing the equity issues raised above, wants to ensure that opportunities are available to everyone.

**'Predators Netball Club is committed to providing netball opportunities which achieve equality of access and choice. The club recognises inequalities exist and will take positive action to minimise them.'**

It is recognised that whilst Predators Netball Club is driving this policy it is our intention to encourage and promote others to adopt a similar policy.

#### **Policy Issues & Recommendations**

This policy highlights key issues that are specific for Predators Netball Club and provides recommended actions. Those key issues include, training, coaching, umpiring and club action planning (monitoring).

##### **1.0 Training**

It is recognised that training is important to development because it will:

- Enhance players skills and performance
- Increase knowledge of rules of the game
- Increase fitness

There are a range of training sessions available for players, coaches, umpires and volunteers specific to Netball:

Club for All  
Duty of care  
First Aid  
Umpiring Courses  
Coaching Courses Level 1 & 2

##### **2.0 Coaching**

We feel that coaching is an integral part of any clubs progress and we strongly support all our members to take on coaching courses and become more involved in the weekly sessions held at the club, local funding is available to assist clubs in obtaining this.

### **3.0 Umpiring**

To assist the club in gaining knowledge of the rules of netball we encourage that all players understand what is required from an umpire and assist in individuals mentoring of new up and coming umpires. With qualified umpires this also helps to engage players in their knowledge of the rules

### **4.0 Club Action Planning**

It is the intention of the club that we will continue to encourage new players to take on the sport of netball and engage other clubs to assist in this locally. We feel that we need to continue to raise the profile of netball within the local area and the region.

### **5.0 CONCLUSION**

Predators Equity is about fairness in sport and providing individuals with equality of opportunity and choice. The adoption and implementation of this Predators equity policy are necessary to eliminate discrimination. This is an opportunity for Predators Netball Club to assist in the improvement of access to netball for all.

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Position.....

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