PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

VALLEY NETBALL CLUB & LEAGUE

Our aim is simple: competitive netball that is safe, fair, welcoming and enjoyable for everyone. By taking part in Valley Netball League activity, players are expected to follow this Code of Conduct. No signature is required.

1. Respect the game

- Follow the Rules of Netball, Valley Netball League rules, competition regulations and reasonable instructions from league officials and venue staff.
- **Accept the decisions of umpires and other match officials.** If a decision needs clarification, this should only be raised **calmly by the team captain during a quarter-time or half-time break**. Players must not argue with, challenge, intimidate, threaten or abuse an umpire or other official at any time. If a player is reported as doing so this will result in a possible fine/points deduction at the discretion of the league oraniser.
- Play fairly and honestly. Cheating, deliberate deception, match manipulation, betting-related misconduct or attempts to improperly influence a result are not acceptable.
- Show good sportsmanship in victory and defeat, and acknowledge opponents and officials at the end of the match.

2. Respect people

- Treat teammates, opponents, umpires, coaches, volunteers, league officials, venue staff and spectators with dignity and respect.
- Do not use abusive, threatening, discriminatory, sexual, humiliating or offensive language or behaviour. Bullying, harassment, victimisation, intimidation and physical violence will not be tolerated.
- Respect people regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by law.
- Respect personal boundaries, privacy and confidential information. Do not misuse a position of trust, influence or power.
- Welcome new and returning players and help create an environment where people of different abilities and backgrounds feel able to take part.

3. Behaviour during matches

- Control your temper and emotions. Do not deliberately provoke, distract, taunt or retaliate against another player, official or spectator.
- Do not engage in dangerous, reckless or deliberately aggressive play. Player safety must come before the result.
- Be ready to play at the scheduled time, in appropriate kit, with jewellery and nails managed in line with the Rules of Netball and league requirements.
- Only authorised team representatives should approach league officials about formal match-day issues where the league rules require this.

4. Safety, wellbeing and safeguarding

- Take reasonable responsibility for your own safety and the safety of others. Report unsafe conditions, damaged equipment, hazards or serious incidents promptly.
- Do not take part if your condition, behaviour or use of alcohol or illegal substances makes participation unsafe for you or others.
- Raise concerns about bullying, abuse, harassment, inappropriate conduct or the welfare of a child, young person or adult at risk. Concerns should never be dismissed as “banter”.

- If someone is in immediate danger, contact the emergency services. Safeguarding concerns should also be reported through the appropriate Valley Netball League safeguarding/welfare route and, where relevant, England Netball procedures.

5. Social media, messaging and online behaviour

- Apply the same standards of respect online as you would face-to-face. This includes team chats, WhatsApp groups, social media, comments, direct messages and shared photos or videos.
- Do not post or share abusive, discriminatory, threatening, defamatory or deliberately humiliating content about players, teams, officials, volunteers or the league.
- Do not share private or sensitive information, photographs or recordings in a way that could compromise another person's privacy or safety.
- Do not use social media to target an umpire or other official following a match. Concerns about officiating or league matters should be raised through the proper league process.

Breach of Social Media & Online Behaviour Rules

Any player, team or club found to be in breach of the above rules may be subject to disciplinary action. At the discretion of the Valley Netball League Organiser, sanctions may include a formal warning, fine and/or deduction of league points, depending on the nature and seriousness of the breach. Repeated or serious breaches may result in further disciplinary action, including suspension or removal from the league.

6. Representing your team and the league

- Behave in a way that protects the reputation of your team, Valley Netball League and the sport of netball.
- Treat both Valley Leadership Academy and The Adrenaline Centre, including their staff, facilities and surrounding areas, with respect. Leave courts, changing areas and communal spaces tidy and report any damage.
- Follow venue rules and do not behave in a way that could put future bookings, other teams or league activity at risk.

7. Concerns, complaints and breaches

- Where appropriate, minor issues may be addressed informally and promptly. Serious, repeated or unresolved concerns may be handled through the league's complaints, safeguarding or disciplinary process.
- Depending on the circumstances and the league rules, action may include a verbal or written warning, removal from a match or venue, suspension from league activity, or other proportionate league sanctions.
- Where England Netball rules or jurisdiction apply, conduct may also be referred through the relevant England Netball safeguarding or disciplinary process.
- Players are expected to cooperate honestly and respectfully with any reasonable investigation or resolution process and must not retaliate against anyone who raises a concern in good faith.

8. The standard we expect

Every player should help make Valley Netball League a place where people can compete, improve, make friends and enjoy netball. Respect the game. Respect the officials. Respect each other. Play hard, play fair and help others enjoy it too.