

RECOGNISING & RESPONDING TO PROHIBITED BEHAVIOURS

This resource provides definitions and examples of Prohibited Behaviours as addressed in the 'Key Definitions' section of the [Code of Conduct](#)

For the purpose of this resource, the term 'Young Athlete' refers to children and young people under the age of 18 who are involved in our sport.

Prohibited Behaviour in Basketball

Prohibited conduct is the term used to describe any type of behaviour toward or involving a child or young person under the age of 18 that can be harmful, abusive or against the law.

Prohibited conduct is unacceptable in basketball.



Prohibited Conduct can occur:

- During basketball- training, games or tournaments
- Whilst traveling with basketball – camps, interstate tournaments, in the hotel, plane, car or bus
- Between two or more people in sport - coaches, other athletes, managers, officials, family members
- From the sidelines
- Online
- Once, or multiple times

Additionally, a child or young person may experience any form of harm or abuse elsewhere but feel comfortable disclosing it to someone they trust who is connected to the club.

- Child Abuse – physical, emotional/ psychological, sexual, neglect and exposure to family violence
- Grooming
- Harmful Behaviours
- Bullying
- Discrimination
- Harassment
- Victimisation
- Vilification
- Keeping or requesting a child to keep secrets
- Supplying alcohol
- Supplying medicine without prescription or consent
- Not complying with the BBNZ [Safeguarding Policy](#)



Recognising Prohibited Behaviour

The more we understand what abuse looks like, and how it presents, the easier it is to prevent, recognise and respond.

Often, we recognise prohibited conduct in basketball in one of three ways:

Allegations

When a young athlete or any other person tells you about an incident that happened to **someone else** or that someone else was directly involved in.

Someone comes to you with an allegation.

Disclosures

When a young athlete tells you about an incident that happened to **them** or that **they** were directly involved in.

Someone comes to you with a disclosure.

Suspensions

When you have a reason to suspect a young athlete has been harmed, based on observations, instinct or gut feeling, behaviours and **indicators**.

You initiate a suspicion.

You may form a suspicion if you:

- Overhear a comment made by or about a young athlete
- Observe concerning behaviour or an action from a young athlete
- Observe concerning behaviour or an action from an adult in basketball
- Notice changes in someone's mental or physical health
- Notice physical injuries
- See something concerning on social media, OR
- Just get a gut feeling that something isn't right
- Being very passive and compliant
- Poor understanding of boundaries or personal space
- Adult language used in play
- Unexplained absences
- Low self esteem
- Symptoms of anxiety or depression
- Lashing out or aggressive behaviour

Indicators – in Children and Young People (this includes, young athletes, junior referees, underage staff or participants)

Behavioural Indicators

- Showing wariness or distrust of adults.
- Demonstrating fear of parents and/or of going home; (running away or hiding)
- Reluctance to be left alone with a particular person
- Overly friendly with a particular person
- Bruises, fractures, burns, sprains, dislocations, bites, cuts.
- Pressure marks from fingers
- Injuries that do not match the explanation
- Signs of internal injury e.g. visual problems, dizziness, abdominal pain, shortness of breath
- Wearing long sleeved clothes on hot days (to hide injury)
- Pain in genitals or sexually transmitted diseases
- Frequent hunger or malnutrition
- Poor hygiene
- Left unsupervised / continually late to be picked up
- Medical needs not attended to



**Indicators in Adults and Professionals
(coaches, managers and team officials,
club members, referees, older athletes,
parents or spectators)**

Indicators of other Behaviours in Adults

- Avoiding confrontation or questions about behaviour
- Defensiveness when challenged or questioned about behaviour
- Comfortable breaking the rules or pushing boundaries
- Rough and unsolicited contact (wrestling, sparring)
- Using explicit language regularly in presence of young athletes
- Shaming, threatening, dominating or overbearing
- Excessive interrupting or dismissing young athletes' views
- Body shaming or commenting on a young athlete's body
- Gaslighting – making someone second guess what they think they observed
- Inability to regulate emotions – positive or negative

Indicators of Grooming

- Spending 1:1 time with one young athlete
- Giving gifts to a child
- Showing special favours to one young athlete but not others (like paying for new equipment)
- Contacting a young athlete outside of their role
- Telling sexual jokes or making sexual references
- Offering to babysit a young athlete
- Asking parents personal questions about the child
- Having photos of a young athlete on their phone or social media profile
- Hugging or excessive physical contact with a young athlete
- Being in the changeroom at the same time as the young athlete

These may be indicators that someone is experiencing harmful behaviours or prohibited conduct in basketball, or outside of basketball, like at home, at school or somewhere else in the community.



Responding to Prohibited Behaviour

1. CHECK IN:

Regardless of where it might be happening, the first thing you should do is CHECK IN with that person and see if they are ok or if there is anything you can do to help.

Call 111 if immediate risk to safety

2. LISTEN IN:

- Provide a safe and confidential space
- Reassure them they are doing the right thing
- Don't make promises, especially promises to keep secrets
- Just listen. Avoid questions, especially those that can be leading
- Remind them it's not their fault and that you will take it seriously

3. STEP IN

If you have information that a child or young person has been harmed, or is at risk of harm or abuse, you are required to step in.

There are several ways you can do this:

- Speak to someone at your Association or School – a Child Safeguarding Officer or Member Protection Officer, a committee member or your president.
- Contact Basketball New Zealand
 - Report it directly to our affiliated Basketball Australia Integrity Unit via STOPLine, our independent reporting hotline which at the discretion of the reporter may be made anonymously:



Scan the QR code for more information or to make a report.