

SAFE PRACTICES: ENVIRONMENTS

This resource aligns with the Safety Practices and Procedures from BBNZ's Safeguarding Policy

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



Creating Safe Environments in Basketball

The safety of young athletes and young people in the basketball environment is paramount, and the expectations to provide a safe environment extends across the following four spaces:

On The Courts

This is the physical environment a young athlete exists within while playing basketball. This includes indoor or outdoor venues used for basketball training, clinics or games.

Off The Courts

This is the basketball environment that extends beyond the courts such as changeroom facilities, bathrooms, gyms, stadiums and social events (e.g. awards nights).

In Tournaments

This is the mobilised physical environment a young athlete exists within while playing basketball. It can include:

- transport to and from games, clinics or tournaments
- travel e.g. by bus, car or plane including transit (e.g. airports), and
- any overnight travel arrangements such as hotels.

It also includes the playing environment that may be different to the usual venues and may be intrastate, interstate or international.

Online

This is the online environment a young athlete exists within while engaged with the sport of basketball. This includes text messages, emails, accessing basketball or sport apps or websites and any other online communication or social media platforms.



Considering Safeguarding Risks in Basketball

Risks are the things that could go wrong in any situation. There are many risks in sport, especially in basketball. It is normal to have risks, what you do about the risks is what matters most.

A helpful approach for individuals responsible for the safety of young athletes in basketball, is to think about the different risks in each environment and how these risks can be reduced.

The tool below can be used to get you started. It is the responsibility of the club or association to be conducting risk assessments, but it is your responsibility as a coach or official to be continually thinking about and minimising risks to ensure the safety of young athletes.

This is just a guide to get you thinking about how the safety of young athletes in basketball can be impacted (and improved!) across the different aspects of the basketball environment.

LOW – Unlikely to happen, or if it did happen it would need to be addressed but the impact on those involved would be minimal, or short lived.

MEDIUM – It may be more likely to happen or may be difficult to prevent, however the impact if it does happen, is serious enough to need a higher rating.

HIGH - It is either very likely to happen and therefore needs to be prevented as best as possible OR it may be unlikely to happen however the impact if it does happen can be catastrophic for those involved.



Remember, this is a very broad and general assessment based on what we know about the safety of children in a sporting environment. Only you and your club or association know what this looks like for you, so only you can do an accurate and realistic assessment of a risk. Through our partnership with Basketball Australia, you can contact their Integrity Unit at integrity@australia.basketball for further advice when completing a risk assessment for your association, club or school.



Risk	Examples	Rating	Strategies
<i>The things that could potentially happen. Some of these are more likely and/or more serious than others.</i>	<i>Examples of scenarios within which the risk may occur.</i>	<i>This is how we assess the likelihood AND impact (see key above)</i>	<i>Suggestions on how to address the risk reduce it or prevent it from happening AND strategies to assist you in knowing about it asap if it does happen.</i>
On the courts			
Young athlete is exposed to inappropriate or harmful behaviour by an adult while playing.	Junior referees exposed to verbal abuse from spectators or coaches during a game.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
	Young athlete is racially vilified by the opposing coach during a game.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
Young athlete experiences a health emergency or accidental injury while playing.	Asthma attack, seizure, fall resulting in a bone or muscle injury.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
Off the courts			
Young athlete is exposed to inappropriate or harmful behaviour by an adult.	Young athlete is sexually harassed by a club member who is intoxicated at a club social event.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
	A young athlete is threatened and experiences homophobic slurs from a member of the public outside the stadium.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
Young athlete is exposed to inappropriate or harmful behaviour by another young athlete.	A young athlete is racially vilified by a teammate at a tournament social event.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
	A young athlete experiences sexist behaviour from another young athlete in the gym.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
In Tournament			
Young athlete is exposed to inappropriate or harmful behaviour by an adult while traveling.	A young athlete is sexually harassed in the hotel bar by an intoxicated member of the public.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
	A young athlete traveling with a group is lost at the airport due to miscommunication from a supervising adult.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
Young athlete is exposed to inappropriate or harmful behaviour by another young athlete while traveling.	A young athlete forces themselves into another young athlete's hotel room and physically assaults them.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
Online			
Young athlete is exposed to inappropriate or harmful behaviour online.	A photo of a junior referee that is uploaded on social media with consent, receives inappropriate or abusive comments by members of the public (people unknown to them) that are threatening, intimidating and offensive.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
	A coach, official, another adult member or a parent (someone known to them) engages in inappropriate conduct with a junior online, sending texts and private messages that are sexual and personal.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
	A young athlete shares a video of another young athlete online without consent.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	