



WAKEFIELD WILDCATS NETBALL CLUB

**TRAINING VENUE: OUTWOOD ACADEMY, FAVELL AVE, NORMANTON, WF6 1HZ
(5 MINUTES FROM M62 JUNCTION 31)**

HANDBOOK AUGUST 2023 CONTENTS

Page 2 & 3 – Club Introduction / Overview / Key Communication Information

Page 4 – 2022/23 Award Winners and Accolades

Page 5 – Supporting Together To Be Successful

Page 6 – Our Club at a Glance

Page 7 – Training Expectations and Membership

Page 8 – Subs / Training / Match Fees and Club Bank Details

Page 9-11 – Codes of Conduct for Athletes

Page 12 – Codes of Conduct for Parents / Carers / Supporters

Page 13 – Photography / Video Permission / Social Media, Match Kit, Training Kit Details

Page 14 – Parental Role

Page 15-16 – Communication, Trials and Selection Policy

Page 17 – Other Policies / Player Development

Page 18 – League Information (Seniors and Juniors)

Page 19-20 – Frequently Asked Questions

A BIG WELCOME TO WAKEFIELD WILDCATS NETBALL CLUB!

Please visit our website www.wakefieldwildcatsnetball.co.uk and click the **LATEST NEWS** tab on the website or calendar to find the dates and times for training and matches for all age groups. Additional information and updates are provided during the main season by either social media, newsletter or via email.

Wildcats has been established since 2006 and currently have around 120 members. The squads range from U9 to seniors, playing in the West Yorkshire Senior and Junior Leagues; details are below.

The 2022/23 season saw us all back on court and eager to return with all the Covid challenges well behind us. We hope the 2023/24 season sees us running and operating at a high standard to ensure all our players have opportunities to train in an appropriate training environment. With the launch of our new Junior Development Academy we can open the doors to new inexperienced junior players giving them the opportunity to develop the technical skills needed to be considered for a place in a Wildcats Squad. The selected squad members after trials will develop the tactical skills needed to compete in the highly competitive West Yorkshire Junior League.

At junior level, U16, U14, U12, U11 and U10 will play in the West Yorkshire Junior leagues this season.

At senior level, Wildcats 1 will play in West Yorkshire Premier, Wildcats 2 will play in Division 1 and Wildcats 3 will play in Division 3 in the West Yorkshire County Leagues.

The juniors will participate in their respective age group divisions as of September 2023.

- West Yorkshire Premier League - Wildcats 1
- West Yorkshire Division 1 - Wildcats 2
- West Yorkshire Division 2 - Wildcats 3
- West Yorkshire U12 Division 2 - U12 (1)
- West Yorkshire U12 Division 3 - U12 (2)
- West Yorkshire U12 Division 4 – U12 (3)
- West Yorkshire U14 Division 2 - U14 (1)
- West Yorkshire U14 Division 4 - U14 (2)
- West Yorkshire U16 Division 2 - U16 (1)
- West Yorkshire U16 Division 2 - U16 (2)

The Wildcat's Handbook is a guide to help you make an informed choice regarding the expectations of a performance club and the suitability of Wildcats for yourself or your daughter. There is an opportunity to speak with the Club Chair / Head Coach Diane Guy wakefieldwildcatschair@outlook.com to help with this decision-making process.

Wildcats' athlete selection is through a trials process for age groups U12 and above.

Our talented and dedicated coaching team hold up-to-date DBS, Emergency First Aid and Safeguarding and Protecting Children qualifications and are led and supported by:

- Head Coach Diane Guy: UKCC Level 3 coach and England Netball B award umpire, Umpire mentor, County Academy Coach and is also a Performance Identifier/Selector
- Our senior lead coach is Deb Wright UKCC Level 2.

- All our junior coaches are UKCC Level 2's; Flo Stow, Georgina Apperley, Nat Waller, Anya Guy and Libby Balance. Hattie Carroll and Becca Leigh are also C award umpires and Pam Hirlam is also a B umpire.

We are looking to invite guest coaches who work at international and National Super League level who can attend training sessions to support players and develop coaches at both junior and senior level.

We hold England Netball **GOLD** Club Mark / Accreditation. This was achieved by aligning all our policies and procedures with EN guidelines in relation to safeguarding, athlete and coach development.

All Wildcats athletes are supported and encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities to reach their full potential and represent the club at the highest possible level. Wildcats is fortunate to have had members trial at England U17, National Performance League, Region, Leeds Rhinos Performance, County and Schools District and we encourage and support officiating qualifications and coaching/team managing skills.

Wildcats hold an annual Presentation Evening in June for juniors and May for seniors to celebrate the seasons achievements. More help is always appreciated at match days and at promoting more social events. If you can help, please contact Diane Guy at **wakefieldwildcatschair@outlook.com**.

Please visit the Wildcats website regularly and follow us on Twitter (WildcatsNetballClub @WildcatNetball), Instagram (@wakefieldwildcatsnetballclub) and join our members only Facebook page (Wakefield Wildcats Netball Club) to keep up to date with current events and news.

Here's to a successful 2023/24 season!

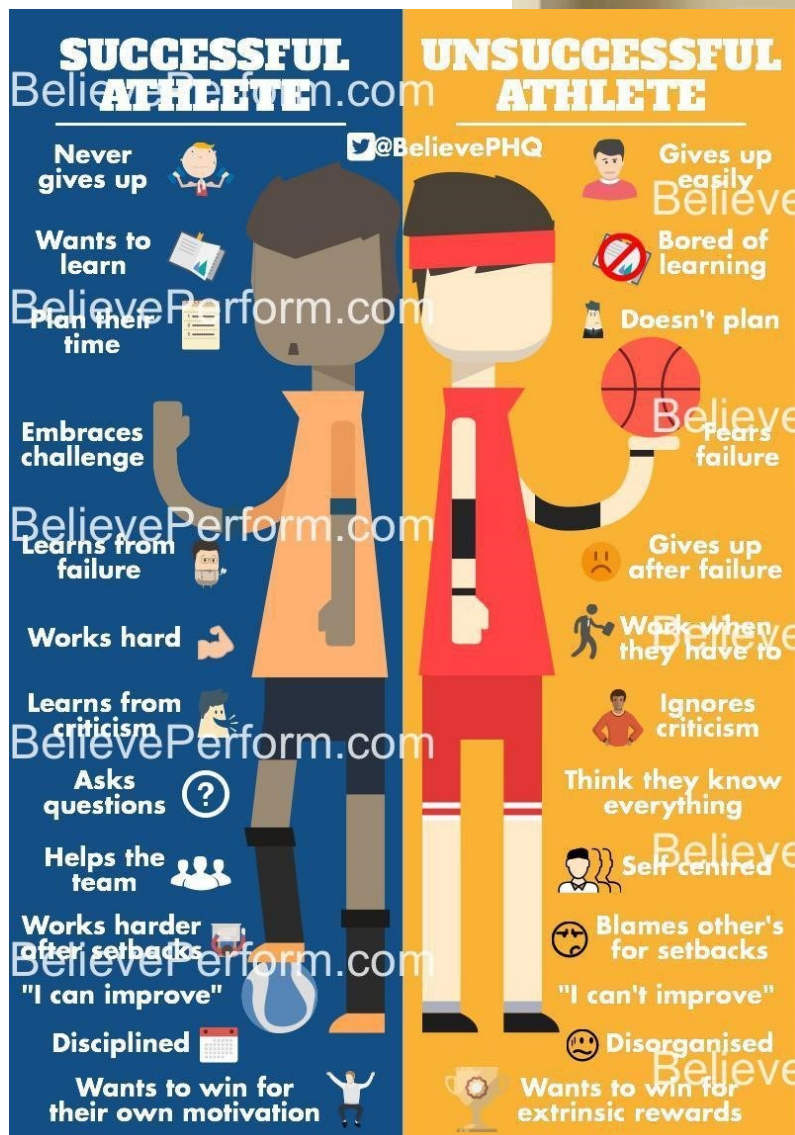
Diane Guy (Chair)

07359 364022

2022/23 AWARD WINNERS AND ACCOLDADES

JUNIOR SECTION

U12(1) – Awards		U12 (2) – Awards	
Most Improved – Siena Clift		Most Improved – Livvy Scothern	
Players Player – Ailie Masek		Players Player – Shelbie Jordan	
Outstanding Player – Lydia Sales		Outstanding Player – Kiara Sinclair	
U12(3) – Awards		U14(1) – Awards	
Most Improved – Phobe Roberts		Most Improved – Amie O’Donnell	
Players Player – Bethan Hill		Players Player – Amelia Green	
Outstanding Player – Imogen Johnson		Outstanding Player – Jasmine Serebour	
U14(2) – Awards		U16(1) – Awards	
Most Improved – Maia Westerman		Most Improved – Zehra Durmus	
Players Player – Daisy Maskill		Players Player – Charlotte Tyler	
Outstanding Player – Sofia Mulroy		Outstanding Player – Nancy McCourt	
U16(2) – Awards			
Most Improved – Sky Barker			
Players Player – Grace Rollinson			
Outstanding Player – Oliva Grosvenor			
County Performance Academy U11 - Kiara Sinclair, Shaiyah			
County Performance Academy U12 - Darcie Nazeri, Millie Booth			
County Performance Program U13 - Matilda Bowser, Jasmine Serebour, Chloe Summerskill			
County Performance Program U15 - Ruby Lingard			
Leeds Schools District U15 - Lily Dawson			
Senior 1 st Team – Outstanding Player - Erim Thorpe, Players Player - Beth Oates			
Senior 2 nd Team – Outstanding Player - Natalie Lawtey, Players Player – Charlotte Ward			
Senior 3 rd Team – Outstanding Player - Lucy Kitching, Players Player – Zoe Nicholson			



WAKEFIELD WILDCATS NETBALL CLUB – AT A GLANCE – 2023/24

Team Coach	Age Group	Primary Competition/Focus
<u>West Yorkshire Senior League</u> (Deb Wright/Diane Guy)	Seniors (1, 2 &3) Tuesday 7.00-9.00pm	West Yorkshire Premier League for team (1) on Saturdays, working towards Super League. West Yorkshire Division 1 for our team (2) on Saturdays, working towards Premier League. West Yorkshire Division 3 for our team (3) on Saturdays working towards Division 2. Mainly senior players with U18's and U16's.
<u>West Yorkshire Junior League</u> (Georgina Apperley/Flo Stow).	U16(1&2) Thursday 7.00-9.00pm	West Yorkshire Junior League on Sundays. U16(1) are working towards Division 1 at Christmas. U16(2) are working towards Division 1 at Christmas.
<u>West Yorkshire Junior League</u> (Becca Leigh/Libby Ballance)	U14(1&2) Thursday 5.00-7.00pm	West Yorkshire Junior on Sundays. U14(1) working towards Division 1 at Christmas. U14(2) working towards Division 2 at Christmas.
<u>West Yorkshire Junior League</u> (Nat Waller/Libby Balance)	U12(1&2) Wednesday 6.30-8.00pm	West Yorkshire Junior on Sundays. U12(1) working towards Division 1 at Christmas. U12(2) working towards Division 2 at Christmas
<u>West Yorkshire Junior League</u> (Pam Hirlam, Erim Thorpe)	U12(3) U11/U10/U9 Wednesday 5.00-6.30pm	West Yorkshire Junior on Sundays. U12(3) working towards Division 3 at Christmas. Key focus is development of the early netball skills.
<u>Development Academy</u> (Diane Guy, Anya Guy)	U16, U14, U12 Tuesdays 5.00-7.00pm	The launch of our new Development Academy is to support and develop those much-needed skills to be able to trial for a Wildcats squad in January 2024. As new players this is an opportunity to bridge the gap between new players and those experienced players who are already in a squad and participating in the West Yorkshire Junior Leagues and Senior League. These sessions are aimed at finely tuning the technical skills based on key movement skills which are essential to progress and are based on the Counties Performance Program. We welcome new players but also offer support to existing members who need the extra support.

All squad players must know before they attend training if they are available for matches the following weekend. Squads will be announced on the Wakefield Wildcats WhatsApp Groups.

NOTE TO PARENTS FOR JUNIOR FIXTURES

Parental support may be needed on Sunday at Junior matches to be part of the Team Bench. Their role will be to support and work under the Lead Coach supporting as a Team Manager or Primary Carer and if qualified to act as First Aider.

Although there is a Lead Coach with each age squad there will be flexibility across the coaching team.

Parental support is invaluable we insist this is always positive and motivational. Parents are asked to refrain from approaching the coach at fixtures so they can fulfil their duties and to address any concerns privately, not court side and at a mutually convenient time.

TRAINING

PLEASE TEXT YOUR COACH IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND TRAINING

We ask that all our members ensure that when they attend training, they are indeed ready to train. This means it is essential that all members wear appropriate training kit and suitable training shoes. Training shoes need to be netball specific and for indoor, it is essential that laces are securely fastened to ensure player do not get injured. All members must bring a drink and a kit bag with a hand towel, body spray, hand sanitiser, plasters, nail file and a spare hair bobble. Members also need to have their hair tied up (if necessary), soft hairbands can be worn, fingernails must be short and smooth and no jewellery is allowed (pierced earrings must be removed, tape is not allowed), silicon wrist bands / fit bits watches must also be removed.

Members are expected to enter the sports hall quietly and to **turn their mobiles on to silent mode**. Use of mobiles during training is not necessary and will not be tolerated.

Wakefield Wildcats Netball Club is run by volunteers, and they do work extremely hard at providing the opportunity for members to reach their full potential. For a lot of our members, this could lead to District, County, Regional, National Competition at Leeds Rhinos Netball and National screening for England Roses. Even though not everyone wants to get to the top, it is important that all members work hard during their training session and take it seriously. Ultimately there is only one person that can get a player to the top and that is the player themselves – we expect every member within Wakefield Wildcats Netball Club to respect that opportunity.

MEMBERSHIP FOR THE 2023/24 SEASON

The procedure for membership is the responsibility for everyone. You will need to go online to the England Netball website <https://engage.englandnetball.co.uk/Dashboard/Organisation>

1. Find Your Club: **Wakefield Wildcats Netball**
2. Club ID: **15001**

3. You will need your affiliation number if you are already a member and just renewing. Please contact Diane Guy or Sarah Balance if you do not have it. New members will get their membership number when they create their account. (Parents need to create the account and then add their daughter's membership).
4. Once you create your account you then need to search for our club and buy the Wakefield Wildcats membership, this includes England Netball, Regional and County membership as well.
5. Once you have paid your membership and created your profile you will need to complete the Club Registration Form so you can be added out our Club database. ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THIS PLEASE RETURN IT TO DIANE GUY OR SARAH BALANCE. Once we receive this, we can then register you to the league. **Without this Club Registration Form members will not be able to play.**

Your membership also includes your insurance (further details can be found on the England Netball website www.englandnetball.co.uk/membership).

SUBS / TRAINING / MATCH FEES FOR THE 2023/24 SEASON

- Subs will be £8.50 a week for each member.
- Match fees on a Saturday will be £1.50 per quarter.
- Match fees on a Sunday for Junior fixtures will be £1.50 per quarter.

As a club we rely on our members support with paying subs regularly to cover the weekly facility hire. These can be paid (preferably) by standing order (form will be emailed). Juniors can pay by monthly envelopes provided by our treasurer. Any snow days/cancellations on our behalf will be reimbursed. Please note as a member of Wakefield Wildcats Netball Club you are expected to pay your subs, in the event of any absence, as a retainer. Any member missing training long-term must inform their coach/team manager in person.

WAKEFIELD WILDCATS BANK DETAILS

ANY PAYMENT MUST INCLUDE THE ATHLETES FULL NAME AS REFERENCE

- **BARCLAYS BANK PLC**
- **A/C NAME: WAKEFIELD WILDCATS JUNIOR NETBALL**
- **A/C NO. 60764833**
- **SORT CODE 20-89-68**

We ask all members to pay by month Standing Order on the 1st of the month to help with our cash flow as our Facility Hire expect us to pay our bill before we train.

As detailed on our Standing Order Form our weekly training fee is multiplied by the number of weeks we train each season and then divided by the number of months. This season we are asking for 11 payments with a start and stop dates of the 1st of the month as of August 2023.

If you are new and joining us after the 1st August 2023, please pay your first month by BACS i.e. £8.50 per week and set up a Standing Order for the 1st of the next month. This date helps us with our administration responsibilities.

DUTY OF CARE

In accordance with England Netball regulations and our responsibility for Duty of Care it is essential that all Wakefield Wildcats members and their parents, carers and supporters are aware of England Netball's Codes of Conduct and follow them accordingly. Breaches of these Codes of Conduct/Misconduct by members can result in disciplinary action which could include fines and suspension of membership.

CODES OF CONDUCT FOR ATHLETES

England Netball's Codes of Conduct require the highest standards of conduct from everyone involved in netball to ensure that their behaviour and actions always meet the values and standards expected.

EVERYONE must conduct themselves in an honest, fair, impartial, and transparent manner.

England Netball's Codes of Conduct are applicable to all aspects of the Sport and are driven by EN's Values (Respect, Teamwork, Achievement and Fun) and the Guiding Principles (set out above).

I will Respect:

- The rules, regulations, and requirements of the Sport, including, but not limited to, any competitions in which I participate either directly or indirectly.
- The rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in netball, regardless of any protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).
- The rights, dignity and worth of Children, Young People and Adults at Risk and ensure that I am aware of the Safeguarding best practice guidelines and procedures when interaction with them.
- Confidentiality and the sensitivities of information I hold on other individuals.
- Netball and the individual's reputation and not take any action or make inappropriate comments about fellow participant, coach, official, volunteer or member of England Netball's staff that will bring the Sport or those associated with delivering the Sport into disrepute, including making comments on social media technology. I will respect EN's guidance and policies on social media technology.
- The position I hold within Netball and always conduct and dress myself in an appropriate manner.
- The result of the game will not attempt to offer or accept either directly or indirectly any consideration whatsoever in return for influencing or attempting to influence the result or seek to achieve personal gain on a result which I can influence by betting on any match or event where I am participating, either by playing, coaching, or officiating, or through direct or indirect involvement.

Netball is based on Teamwork, therefore I will:

- Not abuse or misuse any relationship of trust or position of power or influence held by me in my team, be that my playing team, Club, County, Regional or England Netball.
- Be on time, dressed appropriately and ready to give my full attention to the role I am carrying out within Netball.
- Recognise that individuals bring different qualities and attributes but “together we will excel”.
- Welcome new members, volunteers and connected participation and cooperate with Members, connected Participants, colleagues, coaches, officials, and administrators already in Sport.

I recognise individuals participate in Netball to achieve and have fun, therefore I will:

- Recognise the achievements of others and applaud their successes.
- Endeavour to ensure that all involved in the Sport optimise their potential by promoting the positive aspects of the sport and never condone the use of inappropriate or abusive language, inappropriate relationships, bullying, harassment, discrimination, or physical violence.
- Not impinge on others enjoyment of the Sport or my performance by consuming alcoholic drinks, smoke or vape immediately prior to or while participating in the sport, or while safeguarding children, young people or vulnerable adults.
- Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in a fair, honest environment by rejecting cheating, abiding by the Anti-Doping policies and not taking illegal substances immediately prior to or while participating in the Sport.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat; be sporting – whether I win or lose; always acknowledge the other team and the umpires at the end of the game with a handshake or three cheers.
- Never argue with an official or participant during a game and listen to and cooperate with officials’ decisions.
- Control my temper; I understand that verbal, emotional and physical abuse of officials, coaches, spectators, or participants, or deliberately distracting or provoking a participant, coach or official is not acceptable or permitted behaviour in netball.
- Enjoy the game and ensure others can also enjoy it.

As a player I will NOT:

- Pressure my teammates in any way.
- Use inappropriate language, harass athletes, coaches, officials, or spectators.
- Criticise or ridicule other athletes for making a mistake or losing after the game.
- Force any teammate if they are unwilling to participate in the sport.
- Arrive at a netball activity under the influence of alcohol or drugs and I will not smoke or vape whilst at a training or competition facility.
- Consume illegal substances either immediately prior to or while being at a netball activity where I am participating in the sport.
- Use Social Media technology to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about an athlete, coach, official, volunteer or member of England Netball staff.

I will endeavour to abide by this Code of Conduct and promote it to others. I understand that if I fail to follow the code, the England Netball, the Regional Association, or the County Association may take action against me under the Disciplinary Regulations which may result in Sanctions including fines and membership suspension.

CODES OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS / CARERS / SUPPORTERS

The enjoyment and safety of your child when involved in a netball activity is of paramount importance to England Netball. Every child will be encouraged and asked to ensure that their behaviour and actions meet the values and standards expected of them at all times. As parents, you are asked to support our Codes of Conduct and embrace the spirit of the game.

As a parent/carer/supporter, I will:

- Encourage my child to play within the rules and respect officials' and coaches' decisions.
- Support my child's efforts and performance, give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort and learning.
- Understand that competition is about winning and losing, so results are always accepted without undue disappointment.
- Be a positive role model to my child by helping them work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship.
- Remember that children learn best by example; I will applaud good play by both my child's team and their opponents.
- Thank the coaches, officials and other volunteers who give their time for my child and not interfere with their decisions. I will raise any concerns privately and away from the match day venue and at a mutually convenient time.
- Help when asked by a coach or official.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, regardless of gender, marital status, race, colour, disability, sexuality, age, occupation, religion, or political opinion.
- Read the rules of the sport to understand better what I am watching and discussing with my child.
- Promote this code of conduct to other parents, carers and supporters.
- Be aware of my child's club safeguarding policy and ensure that any concerns are reported to the club's safeguarding officer or England Netball's Lead Safeguarding Officer.

As a parent/carer/supporter, I will NOT:

- Pressure my child in any way; I know that this is their sport not mine.
- Use inappropriate language, harass athletes, coaches, officials, or other spectators.
- Criticise or ridicule my child for making a mistake or losing after the game.
- Force my child if they are unwilling to participate in the sport.
- Arrive at a netball activity under the influence of alcohol or drugs and I will not smoke or vape whilst at a training or competition facility.

- Use Social Media technology to bring the game into disrepute or make an inappropriate comment about an athlete, coach, official, volunteer or member of England Netball staff.
- Consume illegal substances either immediately prior to or while being at a netball activity where my child is participating in the sport.
- Consume alcoholic drinks, smoke, or vape either immediately prior to or while being at a netball activity where my child is participating.

PHOTOGRAPH / VIDEO PERMISSION / SOCIAL MEDIA

To promote the club and associated events, photographs and videos of athletes and members will be used (local newspaper, England Netball Magazine, Wildcats website, social media). These images will also be used as a visual aid for athletes / coaches when analysing technique and skills; however, this cannot happen without informed consent and permission.

PLEASE SIGN THE WAKEFIELD WILDCATS PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM TO CONFIRM YOUR CONSENT

If you, or any member of your friends or family wishes to take photographs or video record a match, you **must** ask permission at least one week in advance so that, in accordance with league rules and regulations, arrangements can be made, and permission sought with the opposition. Non-compliance may cause athlete / team embarrassment and a Wakefield Wildcats representative will be required to address the breach of safeguarding regulation.

Pay respectful care, attention and caution when posting pictures of junior athletes on social media where any non-Wakefield Wildcats players are visible. Keep messages simple, factual, and practical, avoiding any communication that can be misconstrued or misinterpreted. Wakefield Wildcats Netball **cannot** accept any responsibility or liability for the misuse of any media material or comments that are not compliant with the rules of engagement and management of the club.

MATCH PLAYING KIT

- U11, U12, U14, U16 and seniors – Wakefield Wildcats dress, red, blue or black undershorts, short white socks, hoody and track pants, hair tied back.
- U9, U10 – Navy polo, navy skort, white socks, hair tied back.

Please see kit tab on our website for our kit supplier www.macronstorewakefield.co.uk. The address is Macron Store Wakefield, Unit 4, Normanton Industrial Park, Ripley Drive, Normanton, WF6 1BW. Netball dresses must be ordered separately so please contact Sarah Balance sballance@hotmail.com to order dresses.

To avoid disappointment, kit must be ordered early in the season. Supplier delays may cause longer than anticipated delivery times over which Wakefield Wildcats has no direct control.

TRAINING KIT

For all age groups, we ask that all junior members wear Wakefield Wildcats navy polo, navy skort, red hoody, white socks, hair tied back. We recommend all players use a kit bag which should contain a match towel, toiletries; body spray/deodorant, healthy snacks, water/drinks, spare kit/hair bobble, netball trainers, track pants, hoody, before and after matches. The kit bag should also contain basic first aid items; hand sanitiser, plasters, nail files, medication (as prescribed / needed), strapping (if needed), toiletry bag with essential items, plus a valid copy of the athlete's England Netball Membership number / card (accessible via the EN Website system Engage).

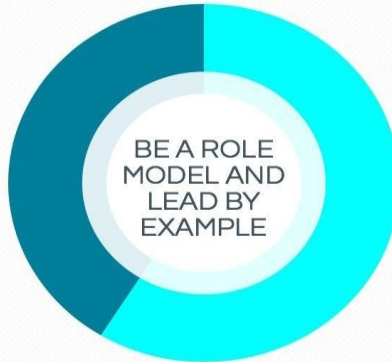
The Parental Role in Developing Young Athletes

 @BelievePHQ

Throughout a child's development the greatest influence on their sporting career will be their parents. On and off the pitch sport parents must be aware of their behaviours, as they can have both positive and negative effects on their child's sporting development.



Allow your child to take part in a range of sports



Emphasise a "Can do/ Don't Give Up" attitude towards sport

Tips and Advice

Children need to know that they make their parents proud regardless of outcomes



Focus on development and enjoyment

Encourage, be supportive and don't criticise your child



Help your child to understand the life lessons they can learn from sport

Listen to your child and allow them to have fun



Try not to coach your child as it undermines what the coach is teaching

REMEMBER! Be a positive sport parent

Work alongside the coach and support staff to provide your child with a positive experience

Allow your child to be themselves. Don't keep telling them what to do. Allow them to be creative and use their imagination



Avoid focusing on outcomes and only on winning

COMMUNICATION

Wildcats Netball is a large club and to facilitate effective communication there is a new comprehensive website Wakefieldwildcatsnetball.co.uk Occasionally there will be newsletters and email messages sent out to the email address you provided on your Registration Sheet; please ensure you notify the Club Secretary of any changes.

The club website is relatively new, it will contain all the information you will need on fixtures, venue addresses and training dates, it may take time to build but please ensure you check it regularly. It is the athlete / parent's responsibility to use the website for information and to keep up-to-date, and it would be greatly appreciated if you could source as much information from the website as possible. Should you experience any difficulty in accessing or extracting information please contact Diane Guy, Club Chair or Sarah Balance and they will try to assist you further.

Wildcats Netball is keen that athletes / parents send current news items and pictures so that the website is live and dynamic.

The Facebook account – Wakefield Wildcats Netball Club is a closed group for sharing photographs, updates and links to the website. Please join and remember to use your preferred name for communication and publication.

Contact information is contained on the Website, and any important messages such as training or matches affected by adverse weather will be notified on the website and via team group WhatsApp.

TRIALS

Trials for both Senior and Junior are held at the start of the season and selected athletes are expected to attend weekly training sessions that are held at The Outwood Academy Freeston in Normanton. Athletes may be selected to complete in more than one league depending upon their ability and the regulations governing that league.

SELECTION POLICY

One of the strengths of Wildcats Netball Club is the ability to offer competitive match play at different levels. Selections for matches can be made for a variety of reasons apart from the desire to simply win. Athletes may be rotated out of their preferred playing position in order to test different athlete dynamics, develop different combinations and may depend on the opposition's strengths and weaknesses. Y10 and Y11 athletes will have the opportunity to play in the Senior Competitions when the coaches decide it is appropriate.



Following trials, successful athletes will be accepted into one or more squads. Each senior team will have a Team Captain and Vice-Captain who will take responsibility for the team selection and will be supported by the Club Lead Coach. The Junior squads will have a nominated Coach whose primary responsibility is the selection and performance of their squad. All junior teams will have a Team Manager whose responsibility is to assist the coach with administrative matters for the smooth running of their squads rather than being involved in selection.

Please acknowledge and respect the crucial contribution made by the Team Managers who are volunteers who work hard to ensure that the right athletes get to the right place at the right time every week. As a measure of respect for the work they do, please reply promptly to emails, WhatsApp messages and other means of correspondence.

Selection of an athlete into an assigned squad does not automatically assume that they will be selected for match play and get court time. Selection to the playing squad for a match rest solely on the decision of the coaching team. *Parents, please respect these decisions.* In the event a parent is fulfilling the role of Team Manager and there is no Team Coach, there will be communication on playing rotas, which will only change in exceptional circumstances.

Team Coaches will notify athletes of their selection as quickly as possible; final selection will be dependent on an athlete's attendance at training unless they have otherwise discussed differently with their coach. When athletes are playing in more than one team, squad selection is inevitably more complexed, and notification may be at a later point in the week.

Any suggestions, comments or concerns relating to squad or match play selection should be directed solely to Head Coach Diane Guy at wakefieldwildcatschair@outlook.com.

Junior athletes are expected to attend all training sessions, and all matches for which they are selected. If, for any reason, an athlete is not able to attend a training session or a match for which she is selected, **she must contact her Coach and Team Manager as soon as possible.**

Senior athletes are expected to attend all training sessions, and all matches for which they are selected and if they cannot attend training or a match for which they are selected, she must contact her Team Captain and Vice Captain as soon as possible.

If an athlete knows in advance that she will not be available for selection (e.g. school field trip, work commitment), she must inform her Coach and Team Manager as far in advance as possible. Any athletes who does not attend training regularly, or who break the Club's Codes of Conduct may rule themselves out of selection.

OTHER IMPORTANT POLICIES

Wildcats Netball believe it is important and essential to comply with England Netball policies and procedures. These are not repeated in this handbook, but it is expected that each athlete will take personal responsibility for reading and understanding the policies and procedures, which can be found on the England Netball website or via the Wildcats website. The reading and understanding of these policies are a pre-requisite to joining Wildcats Netball and enrolling in the membership. Policy examples are; Safeguarding Children and Young People, Equality, Complaints, Whistleblowing and Anti-bullying and Harassment, Social media policy.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

At Wildcats Netball, there is a great opportunity to transition from Junior to Senior play. We have a framework in place which enables athletes to develop their knowledge and performance by playing with an additional group of talented and experienced athletes at Senior level in the West Yorkshire Senior Leagues, which is where top level netball is played at Community level in West Yorkshire.

In addition to playing at Wildcats, many U14/U16/U17/U19 athletes will also be selected to train and play for various academies. Player development and skill improvement takes many hours of practice and dedicated focus on key areas such core strength through S&C sessions at home or under structured guidance. Ball and wall skills out of Club training is also needed. Additionally, attending specialist netball workshops, netball camps through Leeds Rhinos Netball foundation and West Yorkshire County Netball will help athletes enrich and develop their skills. We recommend using social media to access extra training and watching Sky Sports for International Netball, National Vitality Super League and Aus/NZ leagues which will help athletes to gain a better understanding of the elite game. Alternatively, athletes can gain better understanding of the game by attending officiating courses or the UKCC coaching courses which allows players to learn about the game from a non-player perspective. Please contact Diane Guy wakefieldwildcatschair@outlook.com if interested in attending potential courses.

SENIOR LEAGUE INFORMATION

Wildcats compete in the Senior West Yorkshire Premier Division, West Yorkshire Senior Division 1 and Division 2. Players must be in Y10 or above to compete in these leagues.

WEST YORKSHIRE SENIOR LEAGUE

The West Yorkshire Senior League comprises of 7 divisions; Super League, Premier League, Division 1 to 5, with 10 teams per division and is run by the West Yorkshire League Committee on a Saturday at centralised venues in West Yorkshire.

JUNIOR LEAGUE INFORMATION

Wildcats compete in the West Yorkshire Junior League in various age groups at U16, U14, U12, U11 and U10. A final placing just before Christmas in U14 and U16 determine eligibility for the Junior Yorkshire and Humberside Regional League.

WEST YORKSHIRE JUNIOR LEAGUE

The West Yorkshire Junior League offers competition for Y5 to Y11 athletes with 11 leagues offering competition on a Sunday at various centralised venues in the County; Wakefield, Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Halifax, Cleckheaton and Batley. The first part of the season from September to December determines the Regional places and who are the County Cup winners and the remaining teams play from January to March/April in the plate competition.

JUNIOR YORKSHIRE REGIONAL LEAGUE

This league runs from January to March for U14 and U16 on a Sunday at various venues in the Region in Sheffield, York and Barnsley. A top or second final placing secures a place in the National Competition which is annual event hosting representation from the nine regions. For U12's a final County League placing in the top four secures a place in the Regional festival which is a one-day event in June.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I join Wakefield Wildcats Netball?

Wakefield Wildcats Netball Club are an inclusive Club and offer competition for various levels of ability up to Performance athletes and is suitable for most abilities. We currently do not have provision for Walking Netball and are not a Core Inclusive Club. There is a limited number of places available due to the number of league entries, training facilities and coaching staff available and is subject to a successful trial. Athletes need to be fully committed to netball, work hard at training which does have high expectations. Please complete a "Contact Us" form on our website www.wakefieldwildcatsnetball.co.uk in the first instance.

Can junior athlete's trial for the age group above?

No. All athletes should trial in the correct age group for the date of birth / school year. Coaches have the discretion to move athletes between groups as they see appropriate. On occasions athletes play in an older age group but an age banding form must be completed by parents and coaches to ensure they play within the boundaries safeguarding regulations.

Juniors are categorised as follows;

U16 = Y10 and Y11

U14 = Y8 and Y9

U12 = Y7

U11 = Y6 and Y5

U10 = Y4 and Y3

Do I have to attend training?

Athletes are expected to attend all training sessions (unless in exceptional circumstances or by prior agreement with the coach) and be available for match selection. Should an athlete not be able to attend training or a match for which she is selected, then prompt communication with her Coach via text or WhatsApp is essential. If a player knows in advance that she will not be available for selection she must inform her Coach as far in advance as possible. Players who do not attend regular training, or who break the Wildcats Codes of Conduct, may rule themselves out of selection.

How can I get involved and help?

Wildcats always welcomes volunteer help. Parents and players can learn to coach, umpire, or help with administrative support. There are a variety of administrative roles available each year including Chair, Treasurer, Members Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Website Administrator and Marketing and Communications. If you have the time and willingness to help, please contact Diane Guy wakefieldwildcatschair@outlook.com. The club is run solely by volunteers, so all assistances and work distribution are extremely helpful.

Will you support me to develop as a Coach or Umpire?

It is in the best interests of all athletes that Wakefield Wildcats Coaches are suitably qualified to UKCC standard, and umpires are at least C award. We can however support in the continuous skill development for current and any new coaches and umpires to improve playing standards at all levels and work towards competing at National Level. Considering this, Wakefield Wildcats agree to help fund the following courses for all Coaches; Safeguarding, Time to Listen, First Aid, Umpiring, DBS (Disclosure and Barring) and UKCC coaching courses. The clubs are willing to discuss with individuals any funding support dependent on personal circumstances, the financial position of the club, previous coaching contributions and future partnership with

Wakefield Wildcats Netball Club. Please contact Diane Guy wakefieldwildcatschair@outlook.com for information or to discuss further.

Do you take athletes from a variety of schools and areas?

We offer an “Open Door Policy” and we are a welcoming club, however we ask that new enquires complete a Contact Us form via our website in the first instance. We aim towards taking athletes from many schools and geographical locations and we are easily accessible from the M62, Junction 31. There are many athletes who travel from further afield for the quality of coaching and to be part of a progressive club. If you are currently with a club already, please ensure you liaise with them if you are intending to move to Wakefield Wildcats Netball Club, this helps maintain good relations with other clubs.

In August 2023 we launch a new Development Academy for players who are new or who were unsuccessful at Wildcats trials. The aim of this Academy is to give appropriate coaching points to develop the technical skills needed to be considered for a place in a Wildcats squad. Those players already in a squad can focus on their tactical skills allowing them to progress further. Players in our Development Academy can move up to a squad and players in a squad can move to the Development Academy as we aim to operate a fluid system. Trials will be held again after Christmas for the New Year fixtures and if there is sufficient progression with the Development Academy, we can look to add another team/s to the West Yorkshire Junior Leagues.