

Whistleblowing Guidance

Safeguarding children and adults at risk requires everyone to be committed to the highest possible standards of openness, integrity and accountability. Basketball Northern Ireland (BNI) is committed to encouraging and maintaining a culture where people feel able to raise a genuine safeguarding concern and are confident that it will be taken seriously.

What is whistle blowing?

In the context of safeguarding, “whistle blowing” is when someone raises a concern about the well-being of a child or an adult at risk.

A whistle blower may be:

- a player
- a volunteer
- a coach
- a member of staff
- an official
- a parent
- a member of the public

How to raise a concern about a child or an adult at risk at a Basketball event or Club

If a child or an adult at risk is in immediate danger or at risk of harm, the police should be contacted by calling 999.

Where a child or an adult at risk is not in immediate danger, any concerns about their well-being should be made without delay to the Designated Safeguarding Officer. The Club’s DSO will, where necessary, pass the details of the concern on to the BNI DSO at the earliest opportunity. Where appropriate the relevant local authority and the police will also be contacted.

If, however, the whistle blower does not feel comfortable raising a concern with the Club’s DSO, the whistle blower should contact the BNI DSO directly.

Similarly, direct contact can be made with the [NSPCC](#)



Information to include when raising a concern

The whistle blower should provide as much information as possible regarding the incident or circumstance which has given rise to the concern, including:

- their name and contact details (unless they wish to remain anonymous)
- names of individuals involved
- date, time and location of incident/circumstance and
- whether any witnesses were present.

What happens next?

All concerns raised by a whistle blower about the well-being of a child or an adult at risk will be taken seriously and every effort will be made to deal with each concern fairly, quickly and proportionately.

If the whistle blower does not believe that the concern has been dealt with appropriately and wishes to speak to someone outside of BNI, direct contact can be made with the [NSPCC](#) on 0808 800 5000 or the CPSU on 028 90355756

Support

BNI will not tolerate any harassment, victimisation or unfair treatment of at-risk children or adults and will take appropriate action to protect, whistle blowers when they raise a concern in good faith.