



HITCHIN
NETBALL CLUB

Piercing Policy

Issue: 1

Issued: November 2024

Introduction

In line with England Netball's safety regulations, our club has established this policy to ensure the well-being of all players during training and matches. Players are not permitted to wear jewellery, including any piercings, during sessions. Consequently, those with new piercings will need to refrain from attending training until they can safely remove their jewellery.

This policy is particularly relevant for those considering new piercings, as the healing process may necessitate an extended absence from training. To assist families, we provide guidelines on optimal timing for piercings, notification procedures, and considerations for new and returning players. By following these recommendations, we can maintain a safe and supportive environment for all participants.

Scope

This policy applies to all players within the club, including those new to the club and returning players.

Recommended Timing

To minimise disruption, we recommend that players schedule their piercing for the beginning of the six-week summer holidays. This timing allows for the healing process to coincide with a natural break in training.

Notification

Players should notify the club at least four weeks before the start of the training term if they plan to have a piercing. If they anticipate missing the beginning of the term, they must ensure they do not miss more than three consecutive weeks, as longer absences may result in losing their place in line with our Absence & Refund Policy.

Attendance with Jewellery

If a player does not inform the club and attends training with jewellery they feel they cannot remove, they will be sent away and will not be able to attend until the jewellery can be safely removed. If this means they miss more than three consecutive weeks, they may lose their place in line with our Absence & Refund Policy.

New Members

Players who are new to the club and anticipate being absent for a significant period due to a piercing should refrain from registering for the current term. This allows us to effectively manage our waiting list and provide training opportunities to those who can fully participate. Instead, they should join the waiting list and inform the Administration Manager of their situation to ensure they are offered a place as soon as they can attend without jewellery.

Current Members

If a player is planning a new piercing and they wish to re-register for the new season, the club may allow for a temporary hold on their place for up to six weeks if there is no waiting list for that year group. However, if there is a waiting list, the club reserves the right to offer the space to a waiting-list player if the period of absence will be three weeks or more.

Piercing Policy Acknowledgement

New members are required to confirm that no piercings will be undertaken before the first taster session and to acknowledge that they have read this policy and agree to its terms. This ensures all participants understand the policy and their responsibilities regarding jewellery during training and matches.

Responsibility for Compliance

It is the responsibility of both players and parents to adhere to this policy and notify the club of any planned piercings.

Consequences of Non-Compliance

Players who do not comply with this policy may face further consequences, including potential loss of their place in line with our Absence & Refund Policy.

Coaches' Responsibilities

Coaches are responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of all players during training and matches. Before the commencement of each session, coaches must conduct a thorough check to confirm that all players have removed any jewellery, including earrings and body piercings, in accordance with the Piercing Policy. If a player is found to be wearing jewellery they cannot safely remove, the coach must inform the player and their parent or guardian that they will not be permitted to participate and must be sent home until the jewellery can be safely removed. This process is essential to maintain a safe training environment and uphold the club's commitment to player safety.