

Piercing & Jewellery Policy

Issue: 2

Issue Date: January 2026

Review Date: January 2027

Responsible: Hitchin Netball Club Committee

The committee is collectively responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented, reviewed, and updated as required.

Purpose

To ensure the safety and well-being of all players during training and matches, in accordance with England Netball guidance. Jewellery and piercings can pose a risk to both the wearer and others, and this policy provides clear rules and procedures to manage this safely while accommodating reasonable exceptions. The club recognises individual circumstances and will accommodate verified medical or religious needs wherever safely possible.

Scope

This policy applies to all club players, including new and returning members, across all age groups and sessions. It covers training, matches, and any club-organised netball activities.

Policy Statement

- All jewellery, including earrings, body piercings, and adornments, must be removed before training and matches.
- Exceptions allowed under England Netball guidance:
 - Wedding rings (must be fully covered/taped).
 - Medical alert bracelets (must be fully covered/taped).
 - Piercings that cannot be removed (e.g., dermal or cultural/religious items) may remain only if fully padded/covered/taped and pre-approved by the club coach.
 - In exceptional cases where jewellery cannot be removed for verified medical or religious reasons, the club will review on a case-by-case basis, in line with England Netball's Domestic Rules Guidance, to determine if the item can be safely covered and participation permitted.

- Players with new piercings that cannot yet be safely removed should refrain from training and matches until removal.
- Coaches are responsible for checking compliance at the start of each session. Players who do not comply will not be permitted to participate until the issue is resolved.

Procedures / Implementation

New Members

- Prospective members who are unable to participate fully due to new piercings must not register until they are able to train and play safely in line with this policy and England Netball guidance.
- They may join the club's waiting list and should contact the club once they are able to attend without jewellery, or with permitted covering in accordance with this policy. A place will be offered subject to availability.

Returning Members

- Returning members planning a new piercing may request a temporary hold of up to six weeks on their place, subject to availability and waiting lists.
- If a waiting list exists, the club may offer the place to another player if the absence exceeds three weeks.

Coach Responsibilities

- Coaches must check all players for jewellery and piercings at the start of each session.
- Players found in breach of the policy will be informed, sent home if necessary, and cannot participate until compliance is achieved.
- Coaches may escalate exceptional cases to the Committee for review if unsure about compliance.

Monitoring and Review

- Compliance will be monitored by coaches at all sessions.
- Any issues of non-compliance will be recorded and addressed in line with the club's Absence & Refund Policy.
- This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if England Netball updates guidance.

References / Supporting Documents

Hitchin Netball Club Policies:

Absence & Refund Policy

Waiting List Policy

Player Welfare and Support Policy

England Netball:

Safe Practice Guidance for Coaches

Domestic Rules Guidance