The Beekeepers
Guide 2019
Hello

This is Bee Netball. A programme all about friendship, inclusion, fair play and playing together. It’s not about how good children are, it’s about how hard they try to Bee!

Bee Netball is not just a game, but a framework for children to get a great start in life through learning valuable skills including social, emotional and teamwork, all through netball. We’re excited that your club is part of this and changing and developing young lives in your community.

Bees themselves exemplify many of the values that netball instils; they’re active, hardworking have a real sense of belonging and that’s exactly what we hope all of our very own Bees are (the young players!) as they are introduced to our great sport!

Bees are at the very beginning of their journey with netball and each Bees journey will take them somewhere different fulfilling specific individual potential. We’re confident that your club will give them a brilliant start.
What is Bee Netball?

Bee Netball isn’t complicated, it’s simply a way to enable children to play the game while learning and developing a whole heap of other important skills.

There’s a Framework that outlines what is achievable and appropriate for children at various ages and stages. This is brought to life through activity cards. There is a special Bee ball that creates intrigue and character. There is a menu of competition or ways to play the game to ensure it is appropriate for all children, not just those that have mastered all the skills. Children will receive their very own Bee Netball Welcome Pack to support their play and build on the enjoyment your club will provide in sessions.
Bringing Bee Netball philosophy to life

Our Beeliefs

We’re proud to have our own Beeliefs and look forward to seeing them come to life in your club.

Bee fair.
Bees play fair and treat others as they would like to be treated.

Bee friendly.
Bees welcome anyone who wants to play netball.

Bee proud.
Bees are proud of their efforts and love their game.

Bee yourself.
Bees are true to who they are and let other people be who they are.

Bee strong.
Bees are independent and determined and always try their best.

Bee together.
Bees work for the team and support everyone.
The U11’s Framework underpins Bee Netball and covers 5 key sets of skills which help ensure we’re all thinking about children first:

- Personal development.
- Social development.
- Knowledge and understanding.
- Physical literacy.
- Game sense….the netball bit!

When the whole Framework is used and delivered in a brilliantly child centred and engaging way, that’s when Bee Netball happens best!

Click here for more information on the U11 Framework.
Bees love Roses.
Roses need Bees.

Bees players will look to the England Roses as role models, both on and off the court.

Roses players and their team create masses of positivity. This means netball is seen as far more than just playing, it’s supporting, cheering and have a great time with friends.

The Roses will know all about the Bees; they will look forward to hearing their stories and also share the same Beeliefs on and off court.

For those who want to really inspire the children in their club, why not take them along to a test match to see skill, teamwork, determination, strength and pride live! You never know, they may well even get to meet them in person and get the brilliant picture of Bees and Roses together!
The Bee ball

Literally full of character! Designed to remove any fear factor, add fun and give the youngest of children a friendly face to engage with, the Bee ball really is a magic ingredient!

Encourage every child to have their very own Bee ball so that as well as playing in your club, they can play in their own back garden. It is available from our online shop.

Activity cards

Activity cards are all aligned to the Framework to help ensure all your sessions are just right for the age group you’re working with. To ensure they’re achievable for all, they include tips to make it easier and harder as well as being inclusive. To purchase the Bee Netball Action Pack visit our online shop.
The playing place

The approach of the coaches and volunteers in your club is soooooo important in making Bee Netball brilliant! Obviously we all want children to have a great start and are keen to see the Roses of the future but...more important is children having a great time (otherwise they won't want to continue). Your club is a key part of this. Fun and friends are key motivators for children, so making sure these are incorporated into your sessions will really help make Bee Netball the best experience ever. Have a look at the Beeline included in this resource for more ideas.

Recognising learning and development

Bee Netball is all about enabling children to learn and progress all kinds of skills and attributes through netball. To help keep children motivated and to reinforce their learning, Bee Netball uses a simple recognition approach based on the acquisition of skills and demonstration of Beeliefs and commitment.

No skill is valued more than any other and every child should be able to build their sense of personal pride. Within the Bee Netball Welcome pack that parents can purchase for their child, is their very own Beebook which has in it space for specific skills and attributes to be recognised and encourage development and aspiration. This can be done using the stickers, and certificates included within the Activity Card pack as well as recognising children by giving them voice and choice in what happens, for example choosing their favourite music to play during the warm up activities. The children’s Beebook again, lets them record this; so that they and their parents can Bee Proud of everything they’ve learnt.
Safeguarding

Children like to feel safe and parents obviously want peace of mind that clubs are a safe place for their child. By signing up to Bee Netball and putting the Beeliefs at the core of your club will ensure your club is a genuine and caring environment.

To support you with getting all the latest policies and requirements in place we have developed the Bee Netball Workshop as well as lots of useful resources.

Clubs should check [click here](#) to keep up to date with latest policies and requirements. If having read these pages, you’re still not sure exactly what you need to have in place; contact our safeguarding team by calling or email. They will be happy to help.

Bee Netball Welcome Pack

A specially designed Bee Netball Welcome Pack, really gives children a sense of belonging and makes them feel part of it and connected away from your club session.

As a club, we’d love you to encourage all parents to purchase this so that their child can enjoy the full Bee Netball experience. It will not only give them a whole load of netball activities to do at home; but it’s also something your club can use to communicate children’s progress and achievements with parents as well as get the whole family hooked on netball!

For full information on how parents should sign up [click here](#).
1. Coaches and volunteers

The important bit - to help describe who can deliver Bee Netball, please see the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Lead whole session</th>
<th>Assist – includes leading some activities</th>
<th>Need supervision?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UKCC Level 2 or UKCC Level 3 coach in netball</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 1 coach</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualified teacher</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young leader</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent helper</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UKCC Level 2 in multi skills</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A bit of clarification please!

Do I have to have a Level 2 coach for every group within the session?

The lead coach will need a UKCC level 2, but others helping do not need this qualification. The adult to child ratio does need to be maintained and all should watch the induction video. Safeguarding requirements should be in place regardless of qualification!

Bee Netball Workshop:

Our three hour workshop supports anyone who is involved in Bee Netball sessions. It covers everything from how children learn to how to bring Bee Netball to life as well as how to overcome some of the trickier elements when working with children. Would you know what to do if a 6 year old cried for the whole session as they weren’t use to not being with their parents? The workshop covers it all. Find your nearest Workshop here.

Is the Bee Netball Workshop essential?

The Bee Netball Workshop is not essential but does come highly recommended. It’s a great way to really understand Bee Netball and be equipped to be an outstanding, child centred deliverer.
2. Parents

Parents of the children can be brilliant, but sometimes they can ask awkward questions, or come across as pushy and take up a fair amount of your time. This section gives you ideas and support to make your Bee Netball parents a real asset and positive part of your club.
Welcome both the parent and child to your club.

Parents like to know what’s what and if information is passed to them up front in a way that is just right for them, that is a great start. This doesn’t mean you don’t need to welcome their child, but this will obviously be done in a different tone and style.

Information on your website or closed pages on social media can also be a great way to keep parents in the loop. Parents have busy lives and these digital solutions can really help them keep on top of their child's involvement in netball at a time that works for them and their schedules.
Parents can be great volunteers for clubs

We’re not promising, but parents maybe happy to help out with activities. Think about all the different roles that could be handy in your club and then follow these simple steps...

Let them settle in to your club, don’t pounce or make it sound like their child can only join if they volunteer.

Build a positive rapport with parents throughout, for encouraging volunteers.

Identify a specific role or two you’d like them to do and be really clear in your mind, what that role entails.

Ask the parent if you can have a chat with them either just before or just after the session - give them a bit of warning; if they’re rushed, got another child with them etc. they’re likely to just say no.

Ask in person rather than via email, text etc. it’s much more friendly.

Talk positively about the role and your own involvement - if someone tells you how hard it is running a club, the excessive amount of time it takes and generally is a bit negative (even if it’s tongue in cheek!) this can be off putting. Remember as volunteers there are loads of great things that happen as a result - tell them about these bits!

If a parent is interested; follow up via email with clear information about the role/s and any next steps that will need, e.g. DBS checks, training etc.
People to make it happen

3. Young leaders

A great win: win scenario

The Bee Netball Helper Workshop will equip and motivate young leaders to be the best at supporting Bee Netball and being real role models, exemplifying the Beeliefs.

Lots of secondary schools will run the Bee Netball Helper Workshop course and many Helpers may be in your club already.

Look out for Bee Netball Helper Workshops running in the community and encourage any older junior players to go along. Being a Bee Netball Helper is a great support for clubs and a great experience for young people, helping them develop a range of skills as they deliver Bee Netball.
### Playing the Game

To keep Bee Netball simple, the standard rules of netball have been adapted to make them relevant to the age and stage of the children playing. The overarching principle is that the rule adaptations are designed to support the learning of the game, not restrict the playing of the game.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule Adoptions</th>
<th>Buzzer</th>
<th>Flier</th>
<th>Stinger</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Player</td>
<td>Small groups</td>
<td>4 Mixed</td>
<td>5 Mixed or girls only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court size</td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>(\frac{1}{2}) of full size netball court</td>
<td>Width: min 10m max 15m Length: min 20m max 30m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post height</td>
<td>Mini netballs size 4</td>
<td>8ft</td>
<td>9ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball size</td>
<td>No formal positions</td>
<td>Size 4</td>
<td>Size 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positions</td>
<td>Attack &amp; Defence</td>
<td>No WA, WD</td>
<td>Standard positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule adoptions</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rotate positions during game</td>
<td>Encourage trying all positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passing</td>
<td>Pass within approx 4 seconds</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pass within 4 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defending</td>
<td>Defend player &amp; intercept ball</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footwork</td>
<td>Take an extra step</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Age and stage

Bee Netball is both age and stage appropriate and child centred throughout playing games, matches and competition.

Every Bee Netball game, match and competition has a sting in its tail and there can be some great close matches. Bee Netball should be available to all children and the menu of ways to make sure games, matches and competition are organised for all children is there to help you make this happen. Don’t forget the Beeliefs should be a big part of it all too.

Have a look at the competition suggestions for ideas of different ways to ensure a true Bee Netball experience.
**Make player and parents feel welcome**
- Contact parent the day before to make sure they have everything they need.
- Make sure their contact is there to ‘meet and greet’ them.
- Set up a buddy system.
- Make introductions to other players and parents.
- Call or email after the session to ask how they got on and give positive feedback.

**Keep making players and parents feel welcome**
- Maintain buddy system.
- Coach to reward skill development and demonstration of Bee Netball Beliefs.
- Coach to provide child and parent with positive feedback.
- Ensure parents are set up on the appropriate communication channels and invited to any upcoming events.

**Make sure they have all the information needed for the first session**
- Send directions on how to get there and any specific information about the venue.
- Let them know what to expect - helps the nerves!
- Inform them what they need to bring.
- Inform them who will greet them.

**Make sure it’s easy to find information about your club and sessions**
- Be clear on who you are and what you offer.
- Ensure your shop window (website, social media) uses images and wording that will appeal to the players you are looking to attract.
- Ensure all the ‘essential’ information (training venue, time and date) is up to date and easy to find.
- Have a clear enquiry process for parents with correct contact name and details.

**Get to know the parents and how they might help your club**
- Ask the parents for feedback on the club and how they could support.
- Break tasks down into bite size, so volunteering doesn’t feel too onerous.
- Make the parent feel valued and wanted.

**Support your club fans**
- Give them the tools for the job: leaflets, social media links etc.
- Provide incentives for recruitment of new players and volunteers.
- Recognise and celebrate your club advocates.

**Be sure each child is playing at their appropriate age and stage**
- Coach to be familiar with the Bee Netball Framework.
- Coach to use the Bee Netball activity cards.
- Check with parents that the club experience is meeting their child’s needs.

**How do they hear about your club?**
- Club coach delivers sessions at school or runs after school club.
- Club runs a school assembly on Bee Netball, linked to school values.
- School teacher / personnel is connected to club.
- Club promotion leaflets given to children.

**Start here**
How do they hear about your club?
- Club coach delivers sessions at school or runs after school club.
- Club runs a school assembly on Bee Netball, linked to school values.
- School teacher / personnel is connected to club.
- Club promotion leaflets given to children.

**How do you encourage your players to bring young family members?**
- Set up a taster session that is at the same time as older sibling or parents.
- Incentivise club players to bring along family members.
- Hold family events.

**Make the player and parent feel part of your club**
- Recognise, celebrate and reward committed players and volunteers.
- Deliver a variety of playing and social opportunities to maintain engagement.
- Make their wider family and friends feel welcome.

**Meet the changing needs of each child and make them feel valued**
- Coach continues to use the Bee Netball activity cards.
- Coach continues to ask the child and parent for feedback.
- Coach continues to regularly reward the child.

**Make sure it’s easy to find information about your club and sessions**
- Be clear on who you are and what you offer.
- Ensure your shop window (website, social media) uses images and wording that will appeal to the players you are looking to attract.
- Ensure all the ‘essential’ information (training venue, time and date) is up to date and easy to find.
- Have a clear enquiry process for parents with correct contact name and details.

**Responsive to parent enquiries quickly**
- Respond to enquiries within 24 hours, using preferred method of communication.
- Send them a welcome pack with all the information they need.
- Send them a ‘welcome survey’ to understand their wants and needs.

**Make player and parents feel welcome**
- Contact parent the day before to make sure they have everything they need.
- Make sure their contact is there to ‘meet and greet’ them.
- Set up a buddy system.
- Make introductions to other players and parents.
- Call or email after the session to ask how they got on and give positive feedback.

**Prepare for the club**
- Contact parent the day before to make sure they have everything they need.
- Make sure their contact is there to ‘meet and greet’ them.
- Set up a buddy system.
- Make introductions to other players and parents.
- Call or email after the session to ask how they got on and give positive feedback.

**Bee seen**
- Club coach delivers sessions at school or runs after school club.
- Club runs a school assembly on Bee Netball, linked to school values.
- School teacher / personnel is connected to club.
- Club promotion leaflets given to children.

**Bee parent partners**
- Ask the parents for feedback on the club and how they could support.
- Break tasks down into bite size, so volunteering doesn’t feel too onerous.
- Make the parent feel valued and wanted.

**Commit Bee Netballer**
- Coach to reward skill development and demonstration of Bee Netball Beliefs.
- Coach to provide child and parent with positive feedback.
- Ensure parents are set up on the appropriate communication channels and invited to any upcoming events.

**First 5 weeks**
- Maintain buddy system.
- Coach to reward skill development and demonstration of Bee Netball Beliefs.
- Coach to provide child and parent with positive feedback.
- Ensure parents are set up on the appropriate communication channels and invited to any upcoming events.

**First time**
- Contact parent the day before to make sure they have everything they need.
- Make sure their contact is there to ‘meet and greet’ them.
- Set up a buddy system.
- Make introductions to other players and parents.
- Call or email after the session to ask how they got on and give positive feedback.

**Ready?**
- Ask the parents for feedback on the club and how they could support.
- Break tasks down into bite size, so volunteering doesn’t feel too onerous.
- Make the parent feel valued and wanted.

**Bee one of us**
- Give them the tools for the job: leaflets, social media links etc.
- Provide incentives for recruitment of new players and volunteers.
- Recognise and celebrate your club advocates.

**RSVP 24/7**
- Respond to enquiries within 24 hours, using preferred method of communication.
- Send them a welcome pack with all the information they need.
- Send them a ‘welcome survey’ to understand their wants and needs.
Understand why a child has left
Make contact with the parent to understand the reasons why and try to resolve.
- Keep a record of the reasons so you can keep track of any reoccurring themes.
- Let them know you have an open-door policy - you’re welcome back anytime.

Keep in touch with the parent even when their child isn’t playing
Keep them updated on club news and events.
- Invite them to socials.
- Let them know you have an open-door policy - you’re welcome back anytime.
- Don’t forget to do this if someone isn’t playing because they’re ill or injured.

Welcome parent and child back
Send a ‘welcome back survey’ to understand their requirements, they may have changed.
- Introduce player and parent to any new club personnel and players.
- During their first few sessions back take special care to ensure they feel engaged.
- Ensure parents are set up on the appropriate communication channels and invited to any upcoming events.
The really practical stuff

Money

Bee Netball is all about creating a great netball future for the children involved and or sport and your club. This only works if the finances stack up.

There are lots of ways to attract funding to your club. Your local Netball Development Officer may be able to help you identify them.

Funding aside, it is OK to charge parents for your sessions. Parents are happy to invest in high quality activities which Bee Netball at your club will be, particularly as children will learn more than just netball.

There may be families who you need to work slightly differently with to ensure its affordable and accessible, this is often where grants and sponsorship can help.

Never under value what you do - it’s brilliant!

Have a read of the Bee Netball finance top tips and toolkit.

England Netball
Facilities

It doesn’t need to be a netball court to learn the game.

Particularly for Buzzers, many of the activities are built around using a space as opposed to a netball court. Whilst it’s great to use a netball court to develop knowledge and understanding, it isn’t essential. At a leisure centre you could enquire about a squash court or activity room, if it has line markings this is brilliant, but again not essential. A great relationship with a primary school may also help you both in terms of using their space as well as encouraging children to join your club.

Check out our facility audit.

Click here for a list of all venues that have netball facilities; their may be a small single court somewhere that nobody knows about that could be perfect for a Bee Netball session, it’s always worth checking. There is also a broader tool, Active Places Power that could be useful to you, click here.

Partner with a school.

As mentioned, this is a great way to support your club generally, but particularly with facilities. It can also be beneficial from the children’s perspective as the school site may feel familiar to them and less ‘big’ than a large sports hall.
Promoting

Bee Netball is all about inclusion, friendship and play. It’s not about how good children are, it’s about how children try to bee. It is for all children and will be promoted far and wide, there will be a real buzz around it!

Did you know?

All clubs running Bee Netball will be promoted on the England Netball Club Finder.

All clubs running Bee Netball will be able to use the official Bee Netball branding.

Clubs and schools who run Bee Netball, will be connected to ensure children can benefit both in school and the community.

Bee Netball promotes both netball and the Beeliefs, so that parents understand the value and impact it can have on their children; it’s more than just netball!
Bee Netball is a very special way to play netball that will give children a brilliant start in netball, physical activity and life!

To help your club consider the all round experience from the moment a parent is looking for a club through to them becoming part of your netball club family; the Beeline will help you reflect on how you do things and give you just a few ideas of how you can do things. We’re sure this really will make sure your club is brilliant!
Any questions?

If you’ve got a question or a query, contact us at beenetball@englandnetball.co.uk and we’ll be happy to help your club has everything it needs to bee brilliant.