

Supportive conversation

If one of your players becomes ineligible to participate in their current netball environment due to the new Gender Eligibility and Participation Policy, it's crucial to approach the situation with care, empathy, and preparation. These changes may have a significant emotional impact, and how the conversation is handled can either ease or intensify that experience.

A thoughtful and supportive approach helps affirm the individual's identity, maintain their dignity, and reduce potential harm. It also ensures clarity around the rule changes, offers space for open dialogue, and provides opportunities to explore alternative forms of involvement for example, mixed netball. Most importantly, it reinforces a sense of belonging and respect, even in the face of difficult transitions. Preparing for this conversation not only supports the individual but also reflects the values of inclusion, compassion, and integrity within your wider netball community.

1. Prepare

- Review and understand the policy/guidance notes specifically the eligibility table.
- You can use the press release, which clearly explains the reasons and is backed by the policy.

2. Be empathetic and respectful

- Acknowledge the athlete's contributions and how difficult this might be for them.
- Allow space for them to process and respond.

3. Be clear and honest

- Avoid vague language. Clearly communicate the decision and the reason.

4. Offer support where possible

- Encourage them towards mixed netball if they wish to continue to play and reassure them that they are welcome to remain as part of the club.

If you would like any further support, please contact: genderinclusion@englandnetball.co.uk