

## **INTERNATIONAL NETBALL FEDERATION LIMITED**

### **GUIDELINES FOR MINIMUM AGE FOR PLAYERS AT INF EVENT**

#### **1 OPENING STATEMENT**

- 1.1 INF is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and has created guidelines for Members in this regard:
  - 1.1.1 INF acknowledges the duty of care owed by Members and Regional Federations to protect safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
  - 1.1.2 INF believes that all children and young people involved in sport, and in particular the sport of Netball, have the right to participate in a fair, safe and quality atmosphere free from abuse or exploitation. That right is paramount to all other considerations and is enshrined in the United Nations convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 1.2 INF aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or socio-economic background, all children participating in netball activities organised or conducted by or on behalf of Members and Regional Federations:
  - 1.2.1 Do so in a safe, positive and child centred environment;
  - 1.2.2 Do so in a nurturing environment where children can develop and enhance their physical and social skills and which furthers their best interests; and
  - 1.2.3 Are protected from physical or mental abuse, maltreatment, violence and exploitation.

#### **2 MINIMUM AGE**

- 2.1 The INF Board requested that the Coaching Advisory Panel investigate whether a minimum age should be applied for competitors at an INF event.
- 2.2 Until appropriate evidence has been collected to inform otherwise the INF Board will not set a minimum age. However INF recommends that each Member follow the principles and guidelines found in the IOC Consensus Statement on Training the Elite Child Athlete (see below).

#### **3 INF EVENTS**

- 3.1 The Organising Committee of INF Events shall appoint a welfare officer to ensure that the welfare of children and vulnerable adults are taken into consideration in event planning and operations.

#### **4 IOC CONSENSUS STATEMENT**

The IOC statement and recommendations for training the Elite Child Athlete say:

- 4.1.1 Elite child athletes deserve to train and compete in a suitable environment supported by a variety of age-appropriate technical and tactical training methods, rules, equipment, facilities and competitive formats.
- 4.1.2 Elite child athletes deserve to train and compete in a pleasurable environment, free from drug misuse and negative adult influences, including harassment and inappropriate pressure from parents, peers, health care providers, coaches, media, agents and significant other parties.

The IOC recommends that:

- 4.1.3 more scientific research be done to better identify the parameters of training the elite child athlete, which must be communicated effectively to the coach, athlete, parents, sport governing bodies and the scientific community
- 4.1.4 the International Federations and National Sports Governing Bodies should: -
  - 4.1.4.1 develop illness and injury surveillance programmes
  - 4.1.4.2 monitor the volume and intensity of training and competition regimens
  - 4.1.4.3 ensure the quality of coaching and adult leadership
  - 4.1.4.4 comply with the World Anti-Doping Code
- 4.1.5 parents/guardians should develop a strong support system to ensure a balanced lifestyle including proper nutrition, adequate sleep, academic development, psychological well-being and opportunities for socialisation
- 4.1.6 coaches, parents, sports administrators, the media and other significant parties should limit the amount of training and competitive stress on the elite child athlete.
- 4.1.7 The entire sports process for the elite child athlete should be pleasurable and fulfilling.

The IOC consensus statement may be found here:

<http://www.olympic.org/content/news/media-resources/manual-news/1999-2009/2005/11/14/consensus-statement-adopted-on-training-the-elite-child-athlete/>

INF Board  
November 2015