



# PARENT HANDBOOK

Our New Club Structure



EVERY PLAYER BELONGS.  
*Every journey matters.* 



## Welcome

This handbook brings together the story, mission and new coaching structure shared at our recent club event. It explains why the club is evolving, what the changes mean and—most importantly—what remains at the heart of Shaikly Netball Club.

## Our story

Shaikly Netball Club's story began more than 20 years ago, when Angie was working for Colchester United and was tasked with creating more opportunities for women and girls to take part in sport.

What started as a series of netball participation days quickly grew into something much bigger. Over time, four clubs emerged from those early beginnings. As the years passed, some clubs folded, some evolved, and from those foundations came the clubs we know today, including Kats and our own club.

Back then, the club was supported and sponsored by GHI and consisted of only a handful of teams training at TLA. Since then, our sponsor has changed to Shaikly Motors and our home is now Philip Morant.

One thing, however, has never changed. The club has always been powered by people who simply love netball: parents who stepped forward because their children played; players who wanted to give something back to the game; and volunteers who believed every girl should have the opportunity to play.

More than 20 years later, that spirit remains exactly the same. Everything we do today is still made possible by 100% volunteers—coaches, committee members and helpers who give up their time because they care about the club, the sport of netball and the opportunities it provides for young people.

## Why the club is evolving

In the last five years alone, the club has almost tripled in size. To ensure every player continues to receive the opportunities, support and coaching they deserve, we are introducing changes to our coaching structure. This is an exciting step forward that will help us:

- Welcome more players
- Support all abilities and ambitions
- Improve coaching experiences
- Create clear development opportunities
- Maintain the friendly, inclusive culture that makes our club special

So, the first thing we felt we needed through this growth is a mission statement. Something to clearly define who we are and what we stand for.

After much discussion, we developed a mission statement that reflects our ambitions for us as coaches, for every player and every family in our club.

## Our mission

*Our mission is to provide affordable, fun and inclusive netball for girls of all ages and abilities, creating a friendly environment where every player feels welcome, valued and supported.*

*We are committed to enabling everyone to enjoy the game we love—whether they are playing for the first time, developing confidence and skills, or striving to reach their full competitive potential. We nurture talent and performance as equally as we celebrate participation, teamwork and personal progress at every level.*

*We recognise improvement in all its forms, encourage effort as much as achievement, and believe success is measured not only by trophies but by enjoyment, resilience, confidence and belonging.*

*Above all, we aim to inspire a lifelong love of netball and ensure every player has the opportunity to take part at any level, grow and thrive within our club community.*

## The challenges we face

We have reached capacity and regularly have to turn players away. As people who are passionate about netball, this is never easy. We want as many girls as possible to have the opportunity to play, and it is disappointing when we cannot offer them a place.

Our coaches have also been very stretched and it has often been difficult to make sure every team has a coach for training and games each week. We want to support individuals and teams to the best of our ability, but the sheer growth of the club has made that very challenging at times.

### Today we have

- More players than ever before
- More teams than ever before
- Players with very different levels of experience
- Players with very different goals and ambitions

Some girls simply want a fun place to play netball with friends. Some want to improve their skills and understanding of the game. Others want to challenge themselves and compete at the highest level possible.

As the club continues to grow, we have had to consider an important question: how do we deliver this mission while welcoming more players and providing the opportunities and progression some players are looking for?

The answer lies in a new structure.

## A structure that supports every player

To continue growing successfully and support the needs of every player, we need to evolve. We need a structure that can:

- Support beginners to learn fundamental skills
- Develop players who want to improve
- Provide opportunities for gameplay
- Nurture talented and ambitious players
- Maintain quality coaching
- Increase opportunities for participation
- Keep netball accessible for everyone

However, before we move onto these changes in more detail, we want to be clear about what is NOT changing.

## What is not changing

**Every player belongs. Every player is valued.  
Every player has a place in our club**

We remain committed to:

| <b>Inclusion</b>            | <b>Participation</b> | <b>Friendship</b>  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Personal development</b> | <b>Enjoyment</b>     | <b>Opportunity</b> |

Success at our club is not measured only by wins. It is also measured by confidence, friendships, improvement, enjoyment and belonging. These values remain at the heart of everything we do.

## Introducing our new pathways

At Shaikly we are all incredibly proud to be part of the growth into the thriving club we have today. As mentioned, one of the hardest things is having to turn players away because we've simply reached capacity. The demand to join our club says a lot about the reputation we've built together. We've had some girls on our waiting list for almost a year because they specifically want to join Shaikly, which is also something to be very proud of.

At the same time, we've always wanted the very best for our players. We've built positive relationships with clubs that offer county and regional pathways, and while we've been sad to lose some girls, we've been proud to see them move on to pursue higher levels of training and competition.

However, we don't want to turn girls away and we don't want to lose players because we don't offer further opportunities for them. So, after a lot of discussion and planning, we've developed a new coaching programme that we'll begin trialing when we return in September 2026, with the biggest change being the way we coach our players.

Until now, our girls have largely trained within their league teams, often with the same coach week after week. As we've grown, we've realised that this model no longer allows us to provide every player with the coaching experience that's right for them.

Every child comes to netball for different reasons. Some are taking their first steps in the sport. Some love playing with their friends and want to continue improving while enjoying the game. Others are ready for greater challenge and have ambitions to progress through county, regional or even national pathways.

They're all equally valued members of our club, but they don't all need exactly the same coaching. That's why, from September, we'll be introducing three coaching pathways: **Skills Squad**, **Game Squad** and **Strive Squad**.

Before each pathway is explained in more detail, please be reassured about one thing. These are **not** three levels of players, and they are **not** about deciding who is 'better' than someone else. They are three different coaching pathways, designed to meet players where they are in their own netball journey and provide the coaching that's right for them at that time.

Every pathway is equally valued because every player is equally valued. Success at our club isn't measured by which pathway a player is in, but by whether they're enjoying their netball, developing their skills and being appropriately challenged.

## The three squads



The new structure gives players coaching that is appropriate to their experience, confidence, development and ambitions. Each squad has a different focus; none is more valued than another.

## GAME SQUAD

Improving skills • Understanding positions • Working as a team

### This squad is for players who are:

- Deepening their understanding
- Learning gameplay
- Understanding positional play
- Developing their own position
- Ready to compete

### Focus areas include:

- Positional play
- Teamwork and communication
- Court awareness
- Attacking through court
- First, second and third lines of defence

**Game Squad** is very much the heart of our club.

This is where we expect the majority of our players to train and develop. Players in Game Squad will continue to be selected for league teams and compete in the Colchester League, just as they do now.

The focus here is on developing game understanding, positional play, teamwork and decision-making, while continuing to build confidence and technical skills in a competitive but supportive environment.

For many families, there will be very little noticeable change. Your daughters will still be enjoying competitive league netball, but they'll benefit from a coaching programme that's designed specifically around this stage of their development.

## SKILLS SQUAD

Developing skills • Building confidence • Having fun

### This squad is for players who are:

- New to netball
- Building confidence
- Developing fundamental skills
- Returning after a break
- Playing primarily for enjoyment and participation

### Focus areas include:

- Catching and passing
- Footwork
- Shooting basics
- Change of direction
- Confidence and participation

**Skills Squad** is designed for players who are developing the fundamentals of the game.

Whether they're completely new to netball, returning after a break or simply building confidence, this pathway focuses on giving every player the strong foundations they need.

Sessions will concentrate on core skills, confidence and enjoyment because we know that when players feel successful and enjoy coming to training, they're much more likely to continue playing and developing.

## STRIVE SQUAD

Excelling skills • Challenging performance • Aiming higher

### This squad is for players who are:

- Committed to working harder
- Excelling at netball
- Ready to compete at a different level
- Learning tactical decision-making
- Ready to maximise their potential

### Focus areas include:

- Advanced technical skills
- High-performance habits
- Competitive match play
- Commitment and accountability
- Fitness and conditioning

For players who are looking for an additional challenge, we have **Strive Squad**.

This pathway is designed for girls who are highly motivated, committed and eager to maximise their potential. Training will focus on advanced technical skills, tactical understanding, fitness, accountability and preparing players for opportunities beyond club netball.

It won't be the right pathway for every player, and that's absolutely okay. It's simply there to ensure those girls who are ready for extra challenge have the opportunity to continue developing within our club.

## Moving forward together

One thing we'd really like to reassure you about is that these pathways are not fixed. Throughout September our coaching team will spend time getting to know the girls, observing them in training and recommending the environment we feel will help each player develop best. We'll always have conversations where needed and we'll work with players and families to make the right decisions together.

Children develop at different rates. Their confidence grows, their interests change and sometimes their ambitions change too. Moving between pathways isn't a promotion or a demotion—it's simply about making sure each player is in the coaching environment that's right for them at that particular stage of their netball journey.

Another important change is the way our coaching team will work. Rather than one coach being attached to one team, players will train within larger coaching groups supported by several coaches. This gives the girls access to different coaching styles, experience and expertise,

while also giving our volunteer coaches greater flexibility and support. We believe this will create a better experience for both our players and our coaches. League matches don't begin until November, so we'll have plenty of time during September and October to settle the groups, get to know the girls and make informed decisions before league teams are finalised.

Ultimately, these changes aren't about changing who we are as a club—they're about making sure we can continue delivering on the promise outlined in our mission statement. As our club continues to grow, we want every player to feel welcomed, supported and challenged in the right way.

Whether their goal is to enjoy netball with friends, develop confidence, compete in the Colchester League or strive for higher honours, every girl has a place here, and every girl has the opportunity to thrive. We've spent a lot of time planning it because we truly believe it's the right direction for the club, but we're also aware that we'll all be learning as we go. As with anything new, we'll continue to listen, review and refine the programme to make sure it's providing the very best experience for every player because, just like everything else at this club, it's being developed by volunteers who care deeply about giving every girl the very best netball experience.

We're genuinely excited about this next chapter for Shaikly, and we hope you'll support us as we introduce these changes. We'd really appreciate your patience at the start of the new season as everyone settles into the new structure.

Please feel free to ask any questions. We'll be more than happy to talk things through with you.

# *Thank you!*

**EVERY PLAYER, PARENT, COACH  
& SUPPORTER**

*Makes Our Club Possible!*

