

Child Safe Standards

WHAT DOES A CHILD SAFE SPORTS CLUB LOOK LIKE?

From 1 January 2017, the Child Safe Standards (the Standards) will apply to all sporting organisations that operate and provide sporting services to children within Victoria.

By meeting the Standards, organisations that are Child Safe will display most of the following characteristics:

Standard 1:

Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements

- The Club promotes itself as a child safe organisation
- Club leaders demonstrate a commitment to child safety through their actions and behaviour
- Club leaders are interested in the welfare and engagement of children playing their sport
- Parents and children feel welcomed at the Club
- The Club takes steps to raise awareness about child abuse and prevention
- The Club takes a zero tolerance approach to discrimination and abuse of all forms
- The Club recognises, respects and promotes cultural identity as being fundamental to a child's safety and wellbeing
- Club leaders and volunteers undertake training about Child Safety. Parents are also encouraged to take part.

Standard 2:

A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety

- The Clubs Child Safe Policy or Statement of Commitment to Child Safety is freely available and accessible to club members, including parents and children
- All club leaders and volunteers know about the Child Safe Policy or Statement of Commitment to Child Safety
- The Child Safe Policy or Statement of Commitment to Child Safety promotes the:
 - Cultural safety of Aboriginal children
 - Cultural safety of children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
 - Safety of children with a disability
- Children, parents and carers invited to participate in the development and review of the policy

Standard 3:

A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children

- The Clubs Code of Conduct:
 - Is well known and understood
 - Clearly describes which behaviours are OK and what are not OK
- Club leaders, volunteers and parents know how to raise a concern about breaches of the Code of Conduct
- The Clubs complaint process is clearly understood and accessible to all club members

Standard 4:

Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel

- The Club has policies on recruitment and management addressing:
 - Recruitment processes, including skills and qualifications required
 - Background checks and screening is undertaken for all volunteers and any paid staff
- Club leaders (paid and volunteer) have a valid Working with Children Check
- The club as a whole accepts it is everyone's role to protect children involved in their sport
- The club provides training (or access to training through the State Sport Association) for its members on child abuse recognition and prevention

Standard 5:

Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse

- There is a clear processes for reporting and acting on disclosures or concerns about child safety
- There is a clear complaints procedure for use by children, parents, volunteers and staff
- Policies are provided to parents upon request
- All policies and procedures are readily accessible via the Clubs website

Standard 6:

Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse

- The Club has a Risk Management Plan that is appropriate for its size and complexity
- Parents can participate in the planning process and are encouraged to do so
- The cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and the safety of children with a disability are considered within this plan
- Policies are in place to minimise risk involved in one-to-one situations with children
- Equipment and activities appear appropriate for the sport and the age of the children

Standard 7:

Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children

- Children are meaningfully consulted about decisions that affect them
- Children are listened to and their opinions are valued
- Children are informed of their rights and how to raise concerns in an age appropriate way
- All adults involved at the club, especially those who readily interact with children (i.e. Coaches, Officials etc) do so in an age appropriate and respectful way

Further Information

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This resource is supported by the Victorian Government.

*This document was developed utilising and adapting content from:
Commission for Children and Young People (2015), Tip Sheet: What to look for in a child safe organisation*