



Albert Park Bowls Club Inc

Child Safe Policy

Purpose

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the management and members of the Albert Park Bowls Club Inc (**the Club**) to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and practices the Club has developed to keep everyone safe from any harm, including abuse.

Our Commitment to Child Safety

The Club is committed to the safety and well-being of all children and young people who participate in our Club, whether as members or attending bowling functions. We support the rights of the child and will act at all times to ensure that a child-safe environment is maintained. The welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority and the Club has a zero tolerance to child abuse.

The purpose of these guidelines is to assist our members to uphold the Club's core values and create a safe environment for children participating in pennant and other bowling events at or on behalf of our Club.

They also seek to ensure that everyone involved in our Club is aware of the standards of behaviour expected of them.

Application of this Policy

This policy applies to all individuals involved in our organisation (paid and volunteer) including, but not limited to:

- Members
- Coaches
- Officials
- Participants
- Parents
- Spectators
- Guests.

All of the people to which this policy applies have a role and responsibility in relation to child protection. They must all:

- understand the indicators and risks of child abuse;
- appropriately act on any concerns raised by children; and
- understand and follow all applicable laws in relation to the protection of children and reporting or management of child safety concerns.

Child Abuse

Child abuse can take a broad range of forms including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse and neglect. People to whom this policy applies need to be aware that child abuse can occur whenever there is actual or potential harm to a child, and the Club is committed to reducing the risk of occurrence in these circumstances.

Maintain Appropriate Boundaries

When working with children, coaches and Club members should maintain clear:

Physical Boundaries

- Use drills to develop fitness, not as a punishment
- Only use physical contact that is appropriate for the development of a particular skill and with the permission of the child
- Work within sight of others at all times

Emotional Boundaries

- Use positive feedback on performance, not negative feedback about the person
- Be encouraging and avoid put-downs

Social Boundaries

- Do not socialise with junior members via social media

Sexual Boundaries

- Do not touch children in ways likely to make them feel uncomfortable

Minimise Physical Contact

Generally, physical contact with players or participants regardless of age should be to:

- Develop sport skills
- Treat an injury
- Prevent or respond to an injury
- Meet the specific requirements of the sport

All physical contact by members should fulfil the following criteria:

- Physical contact should be appropriate for the development of a sport skill/s
- Permission from the player or participant should always be sought
- Players or participants should be congratulated or comforted in public not in an isolated setting

Avoid Being Alone With a Child

To protect yourself and a child from risk:

- Do not isolate yourself and a child and avoid being alone with any particular child
- If transporting a child to or from a Club game, a minimum of two adults should be in the vehicle
- If a child approaches you and wants to talk to you privately about a matter, do so in an open area and in sight of other adults (e.g. other coaches, members, officials or parents/guardians)
- Try to have at least one adult with you in a change room with children

Working With Children Check

All coaches and other members who work directly with children must hold a current Working with Children Check card where required by law and furnish a copy for the Club to hold on file.

Taking Images of Children

Permission must be obtained from a child's parent or guardian before an image is taken of a child that is not their own. The parent or guardian must be made aware of how the image will be used. When using a photo of a child, the child will not be named or identified nor will the child's personal information be published without the consent of the child's parent or guardian. The Club will only use images of children that are relevant to our Club and the sport of bowls and will ensure the child is suitably clothed in a manner that promotes participation in the sport of bowls. The Club will seek permission for a child's parent or guardian before using such images.

Reporting

If any person believes that another person is acting inappropriately towards a child, or is in breach of these guidelines, he or she may make an internal complaint to the Club. All such complaints should be directed to the Club President or other Executive Member of the Club and will be handled pursuant to the Club's complaint handling procedures.