

# WRFL CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

## PARENT INFORMATION



### CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

As of 1 January 2017, the Child Safe Standards were implemented in all sporting organisations that operate and provide sporting services to children within Victoria. The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards that apply to organisations that provide services for children in order to help protect children. The main principles of these standards are:

- Promote the safety of children
- Prevent child abuse
- Ensure organisations have effective processes in place to respond to and report all allegations of child abuse
- Providing a minimum standard of child safety across all organisations

The seven Child Safe Standards include:

1. Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements
  - Implementing policies and mission statements or promote being a child safe organisation and to raise awareness for child safety, such as abuse prevention
2. A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety
  - Strategies to ensure parents and children are encouraged to participate in reviewing and contributing to the further developments of policies
  - Policies provide clarification and issue resolution, and should comprehensively cover your clubs stance of what is and isn't tolerated and what will happen in an incident occurs
3. A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
  - The Code of Conduct outlines how the club expects staff volunteers, parents and players to behave
  - The Code of Conduct outlines the procedure when someone breaches the Code of Conduct, who to report a breach to and what constitutes as a breach of the Code of Conduct
4. Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel.
  - Information is provided in regards to child abuse recognition and instructions how to follow through on suspicions or disclosures from children
  - Policies implemented that promote good recruitment practices within the club, ensuring the clubs have quality personnel committed to keeping children safe. This document ensures staff meet the requirements for working with children, and that referee checks will be undertaken on all volunteers of the clubs
  - Training is frequently undertaken by Child Safety Officers, coaches, trainers and volunteers to provide education regarding issues and steps of resolution and updates regarding legislation updates
5. Process for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
  - Whilst the WRFL aims to prevent any issues taking place, some still may occur and it is vital that they are handled properly
  - Processes are implemented for acting on recollections from children or suspicions regarding a concern for children's safety
  - Guidelines are provided to staff and volunteers in regards to what to do if the form a reasonable belief or a child discloses information indicating abuse has or has the potential to occur
6. Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse
  - Policies created and implemented to ensure one-on-one situations do not occur
  - Risk assessment checklists are undertaken by clubs to ensure risks or potential risks are prevented
  - Identified risks are revisited as new situations can arise or change, yet through undertaking regular risk assessments the clubs are able to remain one step ahead
7. Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children
  - The WRFL is continuously looking into ways to better improve children opportunities to voice their opinions, concerns and issues
  - Children are informed of their rights and have signage around their club to remind them of these rights
  - The WRFL is continuously working to ensure children feel safe, empowered and that their concerns are taken seriously

# WRFL CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

## PARENT INFORMATION



### **WORKING WITH CHILDRENS CHECK**

The WRFL require the following volunteers to hold a valid Working With Children Check. Under 18.5 competitions and under.

- Junior Coaches
- Assistant Coaches
- Trainers
- Runner
- Team Manager
- Child Safety Officer
- President, Administrators, Committee Members

### **CHILD SAFETY OFFICER (CSO) ROLE**

- All clubs nominate a Child Safety Officer
- Responsibilities:
  - Ensure the club is compliant with new legislation regarding the 7 Child Safe Standards
  - Ensure thorough and regular risk assessments are performed
  - Continually seek new ways and initiatives to support a club culture in which the safety and development of children is the primary concern
- Requirements:
  - Valid WWCC
  - Undertake training on child safety issues as directed by the WRFL
  - Be a trustworthy member of the club, capable of interacting appropriately with children and parents
- The CSO's contact details are accessible on the club's website or on posters around the club
- How to explain the CSO role to children:
  - Always available to listen to any concern
  - Can talk about anything, such as something you don't like around the club, someone calling you a name you don't like or if someone is hurting you
  - What they talk about with you will remain confidential unless the content of their disclosure involves something which has the potential or is inflicting harm on the child.
  - They are trained to know how to help you with all different types of problems or concerns