



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Everyone who plays AFL has the right to Be Safe, Feel Safe, Play Safe.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The AFL acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge we play our great game on this land and respect the cultures of all First Peoples, their contribution to our nation and contribution to the game of Australian Rules Football.

We would also like to acknowledge any victim survivors of child abuse who may be here today. Know that we hear you and your voice matters.

DISTRESSING CONTENT WARNING

Look after yourself.

Reach out for support.

**If you find the session distressing in any way, please stop
and reach out to professional support.**

Lifeline 131114

Beyond Blue 1300 224 636

INTRODUCTION



Sam Dellamarta
Safeguarding Consultant



Dellamarta Consulting provides specialist safeguarding services to build an organisation's capacity to keep children, young people and the community safe.

Samantha Dellamarta

- Criminal Justice degree
- Training, auditing, investigating
- 15 years experience working with children and young people
- 5 years in private consulting
- Collingwood and Rabbitohs supporter



SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITY FOOTBALL EDUCATION SESSIONS

All sessions are being recorded and will be available at the AFL club help portal.

<https://www.afl.com.au/clubhelp/safeguarding-children/webinars>

Sessions 1 & 2 were specifically targeted to Victorian clubs and the Victorian Child Safe Standards

TIME OUT

1. **Cameras on or off – your choice.**
2. **Mic muted please!**
3. **Contact Vicky Gilbert if you need to send a private message to us**
4. **Jump into the chat and leave your:**
 - Name / role
 - Club / Association
 - State / territory

SESSION OVERVIEW

1. What is safeguarding?
2. What is abuse?
3. What are our obligations?
4. What do we need to do?
5. How do we do it?
6. Additional Support/Resources



WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Safeguarding children and young people in footy

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Safeguarding means making sure children and young people who participate in AFL/W activities, programs, services or use its facilities feel:

- Welcome
- Safe
- Comfortable
- Included

DEFINITIONS

Child Safe / Child Safeguarding / Safeguarding

DEFINITIONS

A Child: someone involved in footy who is 12 years or younger - usually a player but may also be a sibling of a player or child of an adult at the club.

A Young Person: someone involved in footy who is between the ages of 13 and 18 years old - usually a player but could also be an umpire or in another role at the club, or a sibling or child of a player.

Adult: someone involved in footy who is over the age of 18 - this could be a coach, manager, umpire, club official, AFL staff member, volunteer, and/or a parent.

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Safeguarding means making sure children and young people are safe from:

- **Accidents and injuries** during training and play
- **Bullying and harassment** from other young people or adults in footy
- **Abuse or neglect**

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Safeguarding children and young people in sport means having things in place to:

- **Reduce** the likelihood of abuse of a child or young person
- **Increase** the likelihood of knowing if a child or young person has experienced harm or abuse
- **Increase** organisational ability to respond appropriately if a child or young person has experienced abuse



WHAT IS ABUSE?

Understanding what abuse may look like in footy

ABUSE IN FOOTY— WHEN, WHERE AND HOW

Abuse in footy is any form of abuse that occurs:

- **During sport** – training, matches and club events and activities
- **Travelling** – in a car or bus, camps, carnivals or overnight football trips
- **Between two or more people involved in sport** – participants, coaches, volunteers and parents
- From spectators, family and entourages from the **sidelines and stands**
- Additionally, a child or young person may **experience abuse elsewhere**, but **disclose it to someone they trust at their club**

TYPES OF ABUSE



TYPES OF ABUSE

① PHYSICAL ABUSE

Any action that uses physical force that hurts a child or young person.

This includes hitting, beating, kicking, shaking, biting, strangling, scalding, burning, poisoning, suffocating.

② SEXUAL ABUSE

Any behaviour that is sexual, or that makes a child or young person feel uncomfortable, threatened or scared, or is illegal.

This includes physical touch and talking about sexual and private things in person or online or showing someone videos or photos that are sexual or private or asking someone to send private or sexual videos to someone else.

③ NEGLECT

When an adult doesn't provide a child or young person with basic needs such as food, water, shelter, appropriate clothing, supervision, access to education and health services.

④ GROOMING

This includes when an adult is acting in a way that singles out a child or young person, getting to have one on one time with them, looking for ways to be alone with them away from other adults. It can feel like it is normal and might not even make the child or young person uncomfortable, but it doesn't happen to others.

⑤ EMOTIONAL ABUSE

The use of words or acts that can make a child or young person feel bad, sad, embarrassed, left out, worried, confused, shamed, anxious or threatened.

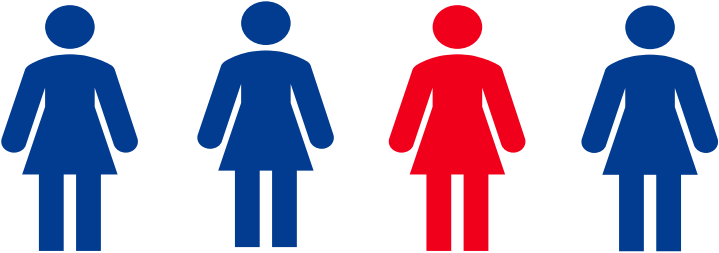
⑥ BULLYING

Bullying involves the inappropriate use of power by one or more persons over another less powerful person and is generally an act that is repeated over time. Bullying may include:

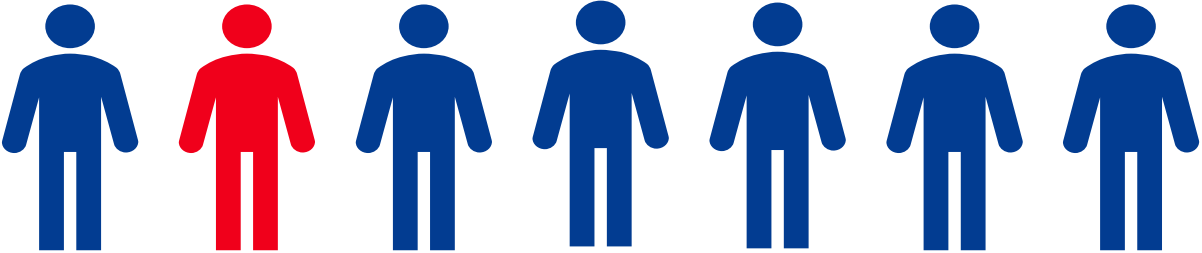
- verbal (name calling, put downs, threats)
- physical (hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting)
- social (ignoring, excluding, alienating)
- psychological (spreading rumours, stalking, dirty looks, hiding or damaging possessions).



CHILD ABUSE STATISTICS



1 in 4 girls



1 in 7 boys

CHILD ABUSE STATISTICS



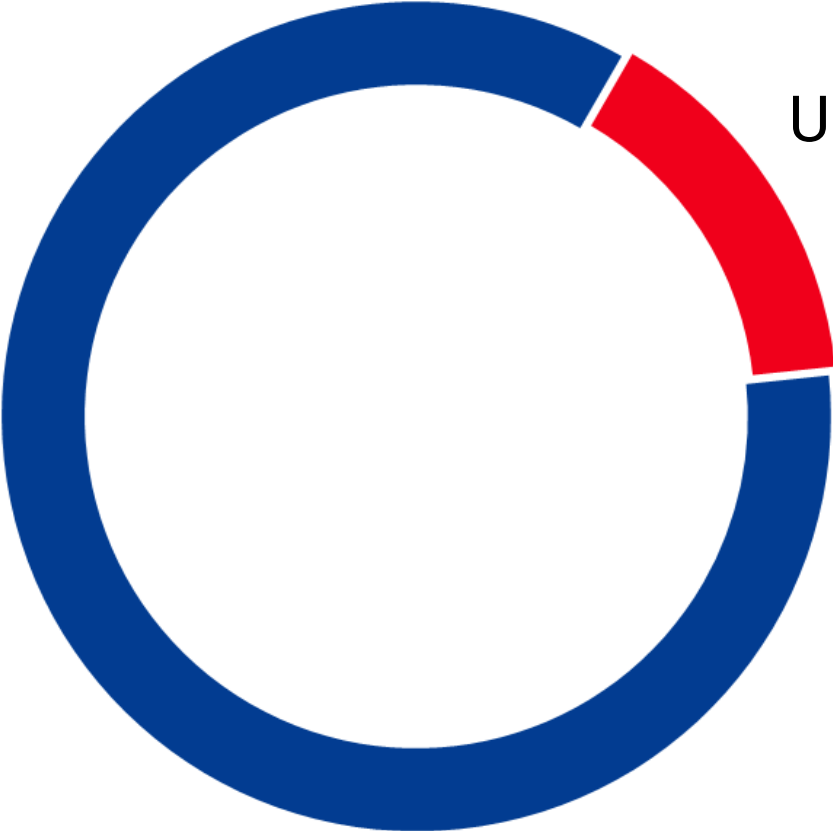
The average time for survivors to report abuse

CHILD ABUSE STATISTICS

The perpetrator is:

Known to victim

Unknown to victim



WHAT'S KNOWN ABOUT ADULT PERPETRATORS

- In the family
- Outside the family
- In institutions



IDENTIFYING ABUSE - INDICATORS

BEHAVIOURS IN A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON THAT MIGHT CONCERN YOU

- withdrawn, unusually quiet or absent
- violent and aggressive
- not wanting to go home or not wanting to come to the footy club
- bruising or other injuries
- reluctance to participate / be left alone with a specific adult
- spending more time than others with an adult during any footy activity, be it a game or training.

WHAT THESE BEHAVIOURS MIGHT BE TELLING YOU

They are:

- Experiencing abuse or neglect from someone in their football circle.
- Experiencing bullying or harassment at the footy club.
- Experiencing abuse or neglect at home or in another setting such as school.
- In need of support regarding physical or mental health.

- Finding it difficult to participate due to feeling culturally unsafe, lack of inclusiveness, a learning difficulty or disability.

BEHAVIOURS IN OTHER ADULTS IN FOOTBALL THAT MIGHT CONCERN YOU

- Being secretive or asking young athletes to keep secrets.
- Singling out players - favouring certain footballers.
- Offering to help out more than usual - lifts home, one to one coaching.
- Contacting young athletes about things not related to football.
- Be-friending parents, creating times where there is more contact with one particular child or young person - alone or with the family.
- Ignoring or dismissing simple rules or expectations, loose boundaries.
- Sexual jokes, asking about relationships or showing private images.
- Creating scenarios where physical touch is required, outside of normal footy related contact.



HIGH-PROFILE CASE EXAMPLES

Footscray Football Club Volunteer

- 7 years of abuse – starting with grooming – money, food, tickets, important role at the club
- Not a coach / not a player
- Many red flags – access to the club, money, private spaces, the lack of interest in the actual games
- Impact on relationships, mental and physical health, employment
- Significant PTSD
- No response from the club

Source: Russel Jackson, ABC News article, 02/05/22

Saints Little League Coach

- Pleaded guilty in 2011 to indecently assaulting 19 boys
- He had a particular rule - No parents in the changeroom
- One victim explained Ray's abuse of trust during his time as a sporting coach at the school, saying: "We were mad sportsmen, and being your footy and cricket coach, you didn't want to do anything to upset him."

Source: Russel Jackson, ABC News article, 3/4/21

EXAMPLES



A coach who is transporting young adults home from a game drives through the bottle shop and offers to buy them beers.



The manager who continually singles a player out in front of the rest of the team, commenting on how they 'aren't good enough to be in the team and should be playing down a grade'



A coach/volunteer videoing players in the changeroom singing the club song after a match as kids are in a state of undress in the background.



A senior umpire coach (19yrs) is texting a junior umpire (16yrs) privately and sends inappropriate images.



A committee member charged with possessing child abuse material



A coach offers for a player to stay at his house so he can transport them to the game as it's early the next morning. The parents agree as they trust the coach. What was once a one off seems to become a regular occurrence now for away games.

EXAMPLES



A coach sending messages about the game to individual players, late at night.



The dad who thinks its cool to show an R18+ movie to the 13 yr old boys in the hotel on a footy trip away.



A coach offers to take the girls home after training, even though they can easily walk. They drive around for an extra half an hour listening to music in his car.



A volunteer gives out free ice creams from the kiosk to children and asks if they can keep a secret.

TIME OUT

- Can you think of any situations you have seen, or heard about, that might raise concerns?
- Do you think your club, or people within your club may have let some of this stuff slide in the past?
- What about now?

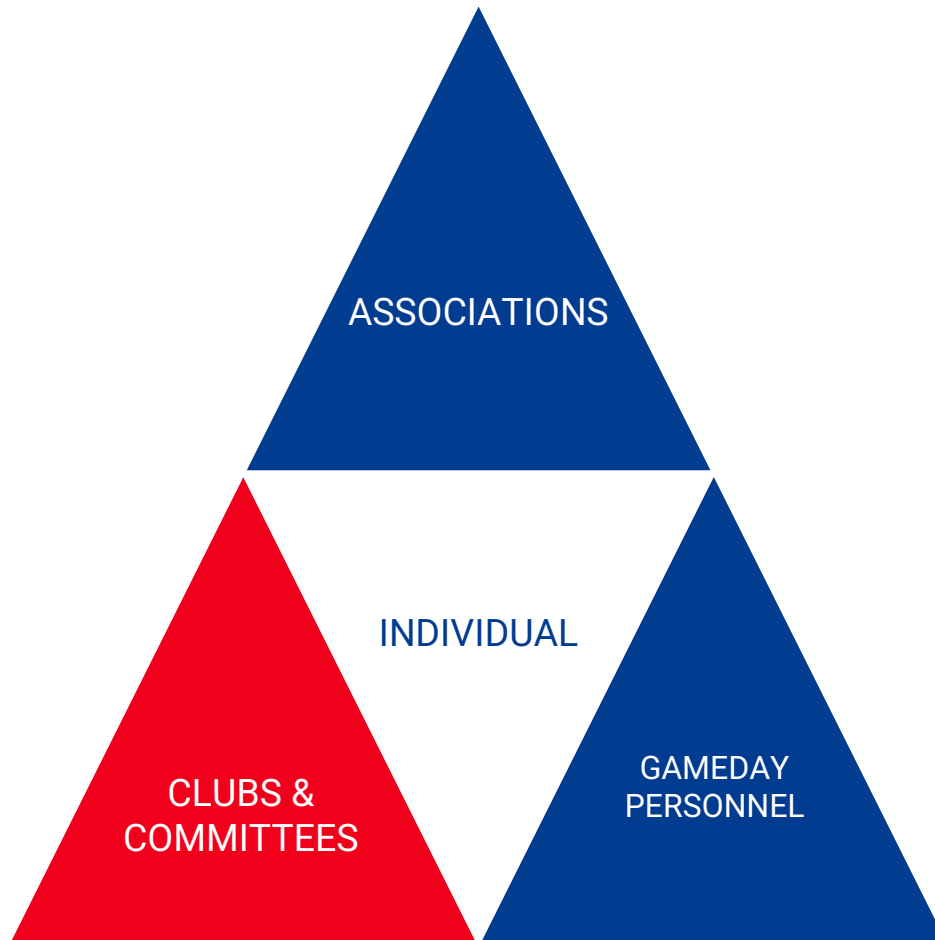


WHAT ARE OUR OBLIGATIONS?

The legislation and what it means for clubs and gameday personnel.



WE ALL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY



ASSOCIATIONS at all levels are responsible for the way in which they lead their commitment to the safety of children and young people through policy, practice, education and culture.

CLUBS and committees are responsible for the expectations they set, the culture they create, the environment in which they operate, the information and education they provide to ensure this, and the way in which they respond to concerns raised with them.

GAMEDAY PERSONNEL are responsible not only for their own behaviours, attitudes and actions, but also for the boundaries and expectations they set for children and young people, the culture they create and the way in which they respond to concerns raised with them.

INDIVIDUAL adults in footy, regardless of their role, are responsible for the impact their own behaviours, attitudes and actions have on the safety of children and young people.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO PREVENT IT?

AT BEST

Unsafe environments in sport can at best, take the fun out of the game, stop young people from playing and increase drop out rates.

As a result, they may no longer get the physical activity they need to thrive, the social connection that is gained from team sport, or they may change sports entirely.

AT WORST

At worst it can destroy someone's life, their ability to form trusting relationships and contribute to mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders and suicide.

As a result, they may be hospitalised, have substance abuse issues, form a fear of being left alone with another person, &/or spend their lives avoiding touch from loved ones or strangers.

It can also have long lasting intergenerational impacts across the family, as the victim-survivor's children are exposed to the effects of trauma on their family members.

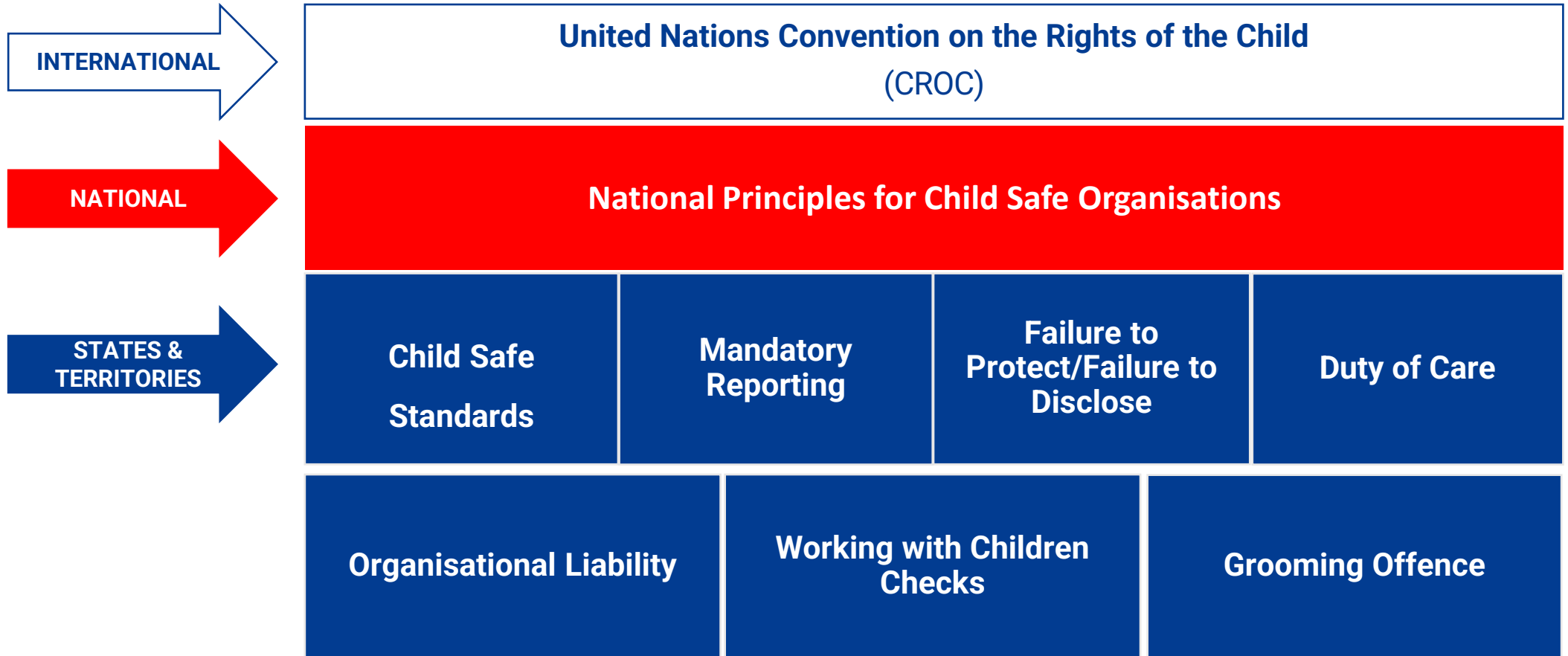
WHY DO WE HAVE TO PREVENT IT?

IT IS THE LAW.

Across Australia, and internationally, there are laws that mean sporting clubs, **MUST** do what they can to keep children and young people safe from harm and abuse while they are playing sport.

They must prevent harm and abuse, and they have to protect children and young people that they believe abuse may have, or may be, happening to.

LEGISLATION



SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATION

In most states and territories:

- Volunteers and paid staff must have a **Working with Children Check or equivalent**
- All adults must **report all concerns of abuse** of a child or young person
- **Grooming online** is an offence
- **Grooming in person** is an offence
- Organisations can be held **legally responsible for abuse** that occurs



TIME OUT

Quick Reflection

How are you feeling?



WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

Simple steps to keeping children and young people safe.



OBLIGATIONS FOR GAME DAY PERSONNEL



know what is ok



do what is right



act when you
notice something

**ALL ADULTS ARE EXPECTED TO ENSURE
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ALWAYS FEEL SAFE
AND WELCOME IN AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL**





HOW DO WE DO IT?

Simple steps to keeping children and young people safe.



KNOW WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU, AND OTHERS

Coaches, umpires and volunteers across AFL programs and community clubs are required to follow safeguarding policies, procedures and codes, and should make themselves familiar with those relevant to their roles.

Resources are readily available on the AFL website that outline;

- Expected Behaviours
- What Does Abuse in Footy Look Like
- Maintaining Professional Boundaries
- Communicating with Children & Young People
- Contact with Children and Young People
- Supervising Children & Young People
- Raising Safety Concerns

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EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS OF COACHES & VOLUNTEERS

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS OF ADULTS IN FOOTBALL?

Coaches and volunteers across AFL programs and community clubs are required to follow safeguarding policies, procedures and codes and should make themselves familiar with those relevant to their roles.

Any behaviour from a coach or volunteer that is considered unsafe (and in some cases, illegal) will be addressed by the AFL, a club, league, association or even the police.

This information sheet is not just here to provide you with a guide of how you should behave, but it is also where you'd hope other adults should behave, so if you notice something that doesn't seem right, you should call it out.

DEFINITIONS

A Child: someone involved in footy who is 17 years or younger - usually a player but may also be a sibling of a player or child of an adult at the club.

A Young Person: someone involved in footy who is between the ages of 13 and 18 years old - usually a player but could also be an umpire or in another role at the club, or a sibling or child of a player.

Adult: someone involved in footy who is over the age of 18 - this could be a coach, manager, umpire, club official, AFL staff member, volunteer, and/or a parent.

know what is ok do what is right act when you notice something

ALL ADULTS ARE EXPECTED TO ENSURE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ALWAYS FEEL SAFE AND WELCOME IN AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

COACHES & VOLUNTEERS | EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS OF COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS

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EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS OF UMPIRES AND OFFICIALS

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS OF UMPIRES & OFFICIALS IN FOOTBALL?

Umpires and officials across AFL programs and community clubs are required to follow safeguarding policies, procedures and codes of conduct and should make themselves familiar with those relevant to their roles.

Any behaviour from an umpire or official that is considered unsafe (and in some cases, illegal) will be addressed by the AFL, a league, club or association or even the police.

This information sheet is not just here to provide you with a guide of how you should behave, but it also informs you of how other adults should behave, so if you notice something that doesn't seem right, you can call it out.

DEFINITIONS

A Child: someone involved in footy who is 12 years old or younger - usually a player but may also be a sibling of a player or child of an adult at the club.

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know what is ok do what is right act when you notice something

ALL ADULTS ARE EXPECTED TO ENSURE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ALWAYS FEEL SAFE AND WELCOME IN AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

UMPIRES & OFFICIALS | EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS OF UMPIRES AND OFFICIALS

PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES

Professional boundaries are the rules and limits that prevents the lines between coaches and players becoming blurred.

Maintaining professional boundaries protects both the child and/or young person and you from physical, psychological, and emotional harm.

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MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES

Good coaching relationships are important in building a child or young person's confidence, their skill set and love of sport. It is important that a coach creates a positive and safe environment through having well defined boundaries.

Maintaining professional boundaries protects both the child and/or young person and you from physical, psychological and emotional harm.

- To maintain professional boundaries, you should not:
- Blur your role as a coach to a child or young person doesn't have a clear understanding of what you can and can't do for them - remember: friendly not friend.
 - Favour, isolate, or single out an individual child or young person.
 - Initiate contact with children or young people (or former participants) outside of football activities, including through social media, unless an established relationship already exists (family or friends).
 - Offer support to a child or young person, or that family, outside of football activities, such as babysitting or financial support.

Unlike the law, or policies, professional boundaries may be applied differently in different circumstances. Eg. providing a lift or socialising with your team outside of football may be unavoidable in small communities or in rural areas with limited transport.

DEFINITIONS

A Child: someone involved in footy who is 12 years or younger - usually a player but may also be a sibling of a player or child of an adult at the club.

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TP - Having a uniform and wearing it whether it is your AFL polo, or your club gear is a good way to help determine your boundaries - uniforms on when you are in your professional role and off when you are not.

It is also a good way to explain it to children and young people.

YFL GUIDELINES | BE SAFE - FEEL SAFE - PLAY SAFE



GIVING GIFTS

It is important you are not favouring one person over another. Sending gift giving is a good way of maintaining these unless you are distributing these fairly. Children and young people in your team is proportionate to the circumstances eg. meals for everyone at the end of the 5th year and proportionate. Taking one child

or young person to the AFL Grand Final is neither fair nor proportionate. When accepting gifts from children and young people or their families always ensure a supervisor, a manager or someone in your club is aware, transparency is key and again, consider if the gift is proportionate to the circumstances.

USE, POSSESSION OR SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS

Using or interacting with children or young people in football must not be under the influence of an alcohol or under the influence of alcohol (acted by any other legal drug such as prescription medication) or drugs (including tobacco) to young people.

• under operating, kept or use (alcohol) during football activities. Assume a child or young person is watching or listening and behave in a way that models respectful, responsible and lawful behaviours.

REMEMBER - We want all children and young people in football to be safe, feel safe, play safe.

PHOTOGRAPHS OR FILMING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

When can we take and use photos and images of children and young people? Children and young people may only be photographed or filmed:

- when they state they are happy to have their photo taken and give consent
- with parent or carer consent and the parent is informed of how the images are going to be used and stored
- in a context that is directly related to football
- when the child or young person is appropriately dressed
- in the presence of other adults related to football.

If a child or young person does not wish to be photographed, or their parent/carer has not provided permission for them to be filmed, they should not be singled out or made to feel excluded. There may be reasons to opt out of photos that a parent/carer does not want to share, and they should have the right to opt out without judgement. This could include serious risks of family violence that may escalate if a child's whereabouts is exposed through the sharing of photos online. Remember you never know what someone else might be experiencing.

YFL GUIDELINES | BE SAFE - FEEL SAFE - PLAY SAFE



is, leagues and associations should be destroyed or deleted as soon as they are no longer required.

REMEMBER - Images taken by coaches or managers are to be destroyed or deleted as soon as they are no longer required.

STRATEGY - Whenever you take or share a photo or video of a child or young person ask yourself: would I be ok with someone else taking and sharing this if it were my own child?

PHOTO AND VIDEO CHECKLIST

Do you have permission to share identifying information with the photo or video from a parent or carer? Do you have taken photos or videos on your phone, have you forwarded them on to your club, league or association website (even from securely) (i.e. a hard drive, not on your phone) Do you have deleted all photos and videos from your phone?

- Do you have permission to share a publicly (from parents) and from the child or young person
- Do you have permission to share identifying information with the photo or video from a parent or carer?
- If you have taken photos or videos on your phone, have you forwarded them on to your club, league or association website (even from securely) (i.e. a hard drive, not on your phone)
- Have you deleted all photos and videos from your phone?
- Have you asked the 'my own child' rule?

COACHES & VOLUNTEERS | MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



COACHES & VOLUNTEERS | MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES



OK

When someone has safe, or good boundaries it means they:

- have made sure children and young people understand their role
- act professionally – friendly but not a friend
- treat everyone in the team fairly
- follow the rules with things like sharing information about a child or young person, or only taking photos of them with their permission and their parents or carer's permission, and when it is about football
- always behave appropriately when around the children and young people that they are responsible for.



NOT OK

When someone has unsafe, or poor boundaries, it means they:

- favour, isolate or single out one person
- accept or give gifts to children, young people or their families (unless fairly distributed and prior consent has been obtained)
- contact a child or young person and/or their families (or former players) outside of football activities, including through social media unless an established relationship already exists (family or friends) and no boundaries are crossed as part of that contact
- offer to assist a child or young person or their family with things that are outside of their role (help around the house / money / buying them things)
- drink alcohol, take drugs, swear or smoke in front of young people at football.

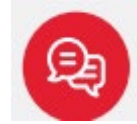


COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



Make it fun

Footy is a place to connect with friends, engage in physical exercise and enjoy the company of their peers & football community.



Involve them

Encourage children to provide feedback on training, clinics, game days etc. Involving them in decision making increases their sense of belonging, is more likely to keep them engaged and takes some pressure off you.



Use respectful strategies to manage behaviour

At no point should a coach ever use harsh physical punishment or derogatory and disrespectful language as a form of discipline. If you are experiencing significant challenges with behaviour, seek support.

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COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

POSITIVE GUIDANCE – HOW CAN WE ACTIVELY ENGAGE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

STRATEGIES

- Make it fun**
Children and young people have told us that when adults are so focused on winning, they forget that it is supposed to be fun. Australian Football (football) is a place to connect with friends, engage in physical exercise and enjoy the company of their peers and football/umpiring community. This is a message that you can consistently communicate to them but is also driven through your behaviour, the culture of a football/umpiring program, club, events and activities.
- Involve them**
Encourage children and young people to provide feedback on training, clinics, game days, clubs or social activities. Involving them in decision making increases their sense of belonging, is more likely to keep them engaged and takes some pressure off you.
- Use respectful strategies to manage behaviour**
Be aware that those should an umpire or official ever use harsh, derogatory or disrespectful language while officiating or engaging with young people/umpires. Children and young people are not motivated by fear. In fact the biggest part of their issue that helps them follow instructions shuts down completely when they are experiencing fear or high levels of stress. If you are experiencing significant challenges with behaviour, seek support from management, a supervisor for your league, club or association and involve parents whenever possible.

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IMPRES & OFFICIALS | COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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COMMUNICATING IN PERSON – USE OF LANGUAGE AND TONE OF VOICE

When communicating with children and young people it is important to remember that what you say and how you say it matters.

Appropriate communication includes:

- Using tone and language that is:
 - empowering and encouraging
 - simple and clear
 - highly motivating

Inappropriate communication includes:

- derogatory language, including reference to body shape
- discriminatory, racist, or sexist comments
- language that is belittling, negative, threatening or intimidating
- any language or comment that is sexual in nature

USE OF ELECTRONIC AND ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS

Using social media to communicate with children and young people has both benefits and risks. Although direct contact is an option for an umpire or official, it is required it is good practice to use a secure app or program to facilitate communication where possible.

Safe online communication includes:

- Limiting contact to football/umpiring related content such as sharing information relating to events.
- Avoiding connecting with young people on online social media platforms through personal profiles.
- Allowing young people to navigate their online world without judgement, pressure or unrealistic comments from their football/umpiring connections.
- Where possible, always including a parent/carer or at least one other adult in group communication.
- Always seeking permission to share or upload video or photos of a child or young person, from them and their families.
- Reporting or addressing any online abuse or harassment that you may observe when it involves young people in sport through their parents and/or the club.

Unsafe online communication includes:

- Checking in on a young person's wellbeing if you have any reason to suspect that they are experiencing abuse or harassment online.
- Liking, sharing, or commenting on personal photos or posts from a young person that is not related to umpiring or football, or if related to the sport, without their consent and a justified reason to like/shar/shar comment. If you are unsure, don't like, share, or comment.
- Communication that takes place outside of the hours responsible to the program, service, activity or event.
- Requesting to meet in person for reasons not related to football or umpiring.
- Asking the child or young person to keep secrets including in relation to communication.

IMPRES & OFFICIALS | COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Using social media to communicate with young people in football or umpiring has both benefits and risks, just consider the intent and the content.

INTENT

- What are my intentions?
- Are they appropriate?
- Can I justify contacting someone?
- Is it necessary?
- Would another adult have any reason to question my intentions?

CONTENT

- In the content of my communication relevant to football/umpiring?
- Is it personal?
- Would I be comfortable if their parents read this?
- Would I be happy to read this if it were between my own child and their coach?

STRATEGIES - It is good practice to introduce a secure app or program to facilitate communication where possible. Remember, parents and carers should be included in all communications, where possible. Stick to mainstream apps like Facebook where your communication can be intercepted if necessary. Remember, transparency is everything. Ensure your league, club or association is only sharing or posting with permission, respectful and appropriate content for the intended audience to social media accounts/pages. It is a great platform to promote positive messages. Keep an eye on the useful resources available including this: www.playtheyrules.net.au/get-an-issue/social-media/social-media-issues

SAY SOMETHING

If you have concerns about the safety of a child or young person or have not been heard consistently that doesn't feel right, it is important you say something.

You can:

- Speak directly with someone you trust at football like a coach, team manager, umpire, official or club representative.
- Write down your concerns and give them to your club or association via email or a letter.

Use this QR code to reach a contact with the AFL.

For any safeguarding queries email childsafet@yaf.com.au or contact the police on 000

We want all children and young people in football to be safe, feel safe, play safe.

IMPRES & OFFICIALS | COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

✔ OK	✘ NOT OK
<p>Guidance that is positive, helpful, and focussed on the child or the young person's football skills and game, not them as a person.</p> <p>Language that is calm and kind and that they can easily understand.</p> <p>Online communication that includes a parent or carer and is used with the whole team.</p> <p>Avoiding labels, assumptions or stereotypes with children and young people from diverse backgrounds</p>	<p>Any language or communication that leaves a child or young person feeling uncomfortable, worried, scared or embarrassed.</p> <p>Any comment online or in person that is sexual or private or sending inappropriate photos.</p> <p>Any contact that happens outside of training and match day hours (like late at night), or on private chat platforms (like socials or texting), is over the top or excessive, or is about personal stuff, nothing to do with football.</p>

PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

It is acknowledged that physical contact is an important part of coaching.

Physical contact is also important for building rapport and connection, such as a pat on the back or a high five, as long as it is appropriate.

AFL SAFE FOOTY GUIDELINES | BE SAFE - FEEL SAFE - PLAY SAFE



CONTACT WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

CAN I USE PHYSICAL CONTACT WHEN UMPIRING OR OFFICIATING?

Physical contact such as demonstrating hand or technique is not part of the role of an umpire or official. However, it is acknowledged that physical contact may occur incidentally while umpiring or officiating when understanding training calls or while building rapport, such as a pat on the back or a high five, as long as it is appropriate.

Appropriate physical contact with children and young people includes contact that is relevant to the confines of your role as an umpire or another relevant role. These guidelines should provide direction to ensure your own behaviour is appropriate and the behaviours and actions you observe in others are too.

Play by the Rules defines appropriate and inappropriate physical contact as:

- Physical contact is appropriate if it:
 - is used to assist in skill development
 - is required for the child or young person's safety
 - occurs with the full umpire's understanding and permission
 - is for the child or young person's benefit, not adult gratification
 - occurs in an open environment.

Physical contact is inappropriate if it:

- is aggressive, dangerous or causes physical harm or injury
- involves wrestling, sparring, pushing and shoving, even if intended as fun
- is sexual in nature, including touching the groin, genital area, buttocks, breasts or any part of the body that may cause distress or embarrassment
- highlights, embarrasses or humiliates a child
- occurs in a private place.

DEFINITIONS

A Child: someone involved in footy who is 12 years old or younger, usually a player but may also be a sibling of a player or child of an adult or the club.

A Young Person: someone involved in footy who is between the ages of 13 and 19 years old, usually a player but could also be an umpire or is another role at the club, or a sibling or child of a player.

Adult: someone involved in footy who is over the age of 18 - this could be a coach, manager, umpire, club official, AFL staff member, player, volunteer, and/or a parent.

Child safeguarding policies, procedures and codes of conduct relevant to your role should provide further detail on what appropriate and inappropriate physical contact looks like in Australian football.

IMPACT & OFFICIALS | CONTACT WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

BE SAFE - FEEL SAFE - PLAY SAFE



DO I KNOW WHAT IS OK AND IS NOT OK?

In Footy Look Like resource page of abuse and what abusive is in football. Make sure you are

ask yourself the following:

- Are you in good practice when you're young people? If you're not, you should consider further detail on what appropriate and inappropriate physical contact looks like in Australian football.

ing and football and my role? person aware of what I am doing and consent? Could they consent about?

PHYSICAL HARM?

harm to a child or young person, such as bruising, swelling, laceration, or other physical injury, such as being, shoving, or hitting.

(the result of physical abuse, actions intended to be fun or behaviours are not appropriate in and football). They are not when between an adult (eg. coach to player) and 1) between two or more young people (eg. teammates).

people (eg. teammates).

IMPACT & OFFICIALS | CONTACT WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

BE SAFE - FEEL SAFE - PLAY SAFE



BE SAFE - FEEL SAFE - PLAY SAFE



SEXUAL MISCONDUCT?

refers to behaviours of a sexual nature that are inappropriate and in breach of child safeguarding policies and codes of conduct.

any circumstances, engage in all nature with or in the presence of a child or young person.

includes contact (including physical and non-physical), verbal or online communication, and requests to observe a sexual act.

THE AGE OF CONSENT?

that you hold a position of authority over children and young people under the age of 18. Under no circumstances should you, as a person in a position of authority, engage in behaviour of a sexual nature with a child.

GROOMING?

is an adult takes to position themselves to commit a sexual offence against a child or young person. The imbalance of power in coach - athlete relationships and the presence of parents provides an environment where grooming can occur. **sexual offences in some states and strictly prohibited within the AFL.**

REMEMBER

If you have concerns about the safety of a child or young person or have just seen or heard something that doesn't feel right, it is important you speak up.

With consent, you can help them into your club or association via email or a letter.

You can:

- Speak directly with someone you trust in football like a coach, team manager, another umpire, official or club representative.
- Use the QR code to raise a concern with the AFL.

As always if anyone is in immediate danger contact the police on 000.



We want all children and young people in football to be safe, feel safe, play safe.

IMPACT & OFFICIALS | CONTACT WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

It is acknowledged that physical contact is an important part of coaching. Physical contact is also important for building rapport and connection, such as a pat on the back or a high five, as long as it is appropriate.

 OK	 NOT OK
<p>Physical touch that is normal for football and happens in front of other people and WITH the child or young person's consent.</p> <p>This can include tackling, demonstrating skills and techniques, preventing injury, or keeping them safe, or high fives or a pat on the back to celebrate a win.</p>	<p>Any touch a child or young person does not consent to, or that makes them feel uncomfortable.</p> <p>Any touch that seems sexual, involve a child's or young person's private parts, or embarrasses them.</p> <p>Any touch that happens in a private place like the changerooms or a car.</p>

SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

During the time that you are responsible for children and young people you are required to maintain adequate supervision.

This means always having a line of sight of all the children and young people in your care, where reasonable and practical.

It is important to understand that if an incident occurs during this time, you are the adult with the responsibility whether they were with you or away from you.

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SUPERVISING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

WHAT ARE MY SUPERVISION RESPONSIBILITIES?

During the time that you are responsible for children and young people (arrival, during and finishing training and games, and until they are in the care of their family or another responsible adult) you are required to maintain adequate supervision, meaning you always have a line of sight of all the children and young people in your care, where reasonable and practical. If you cannot consistently maintain a level of supervision for any reason, you will need to seek additional support from another responsible person.

STRATEGIES - If a child or young person needs to use the bathroom, it is reasonable for another adult (manager or parent) to accompany them, check the facility is empty and then wait outside. It is also reasonable for them to go in pairs or small groups; however, you must continue to check on them as best as possible while still respecting their privacy. Alternatively suggest a toilet break for everyone at the same time, to reduce the risk.

It is important to understand that if an incident occurs during this time, you are the adult with the responsibility whether they were with you or away from you.

DEFINITIONS

A Child: someone involved in footy who is 12 years or younger - usually a player but may also be a sibling of a player or child of an adult at the club.

A Young Person: someone involved in footy who is between the ages of 13 and 19 years old - usually a player but could also be an umpire or in another role at the club, or a sibling or child of a player.

Adult: someone involved in footy who is over the age of 18 - this could be a coach, manager, umpire, club official, AFL staff member, volunteer, and/or a parent.

i Further guidelines on transporting children and young people can be found in the AFL Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and the Transport Permission Form.



TRANSPORTING CHILDREN

CAN I TAKE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO GAMES, CARNIVALS, OR EVENTS IN MY CAR?

In appropriate circumstances, you may need to transport a child or young person in your private vehicle. Transport may only occur with the consent of a parent or carer and if another person in football (authorised supervisor, manager, junior football coordinator etc) is informed by text or email. Where possible, a travel permission form should be signed in advance of transporting children and young people. Where it's a last minute emergency, ensure you contact the parent or carer and confirm time of departure with them and their child and time of arrival at their home.

COACHES & VOLUNTEERS | SUPERVISING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



OK

Coaches who are responsible for supervising children and young people in football should:

- always know where the children or young people are at all times
- give them privacy to use the bathroom or change rooms, but still make sure that they are safe
- wait with them until they have been collected only offer a lift if they have their licence and their car is insured, a parent or carer has provided written consent and another person from the club knows about it



NOT OK

Coaches who are responsible for supervising children and young people in football should not:

- be distracted by their phones or other people
- let young children use a bathroom without making sure there are no risks first
- leave a child or young person alone, even if they are late to be picked up
- drive children or young people around in their car recklessly, under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or without permission

TRANSPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE


In appropriate circumstances, you may need to transport a child or young person in your private vehicle.

Transport may only occur with the consent of a parent or carer and if another person in football (authorised supervisor, manager, junior football coordinator etc) is informed by text or email.

Where possible, a travel permission form should be signed in advance of transporting children and young people. Where it's a last-minute emergency, ensure you contact the parent or carer and confirm time of departure with them and their child and time of arrival at their home.

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GUIDELINE FOR TRANSPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



INTRODUCTION

Sporting organisations and clubs rely on parents and the goodwill of many volunteers to ensure children and young people are transported to and from training, competitions, and events.

It is reasonable for clubs, leagues, associations and sports administrators to place responsibility on parents to ensure appropriate and safe travel arrangements. However, from time to time, children and young people may require the help and support of other parents, coaches or sports administrators to get to and from training and events.

In appropriate circumstances, you may need to accompany or transport a child or young person in your private vehicle or by bus.

Where a club, league, association, coach or sports administrator is organising transport for children and young people, the organiser has responsibility to take reasonable steps to safeguard those children and young people for whom they have a duty of care. The purpose of this guideline is to inform coaches, managers, clubs, leagues, associations and parents/carer of the steps to be taken when providing transport for children and young people.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS


If you are required to transport a child/ children and/or young people consider the following questions when assessing risk:

- Have parents/carers been made aware of the transporting children and young person guideline?
- Have parents/carers signed to transport arrangements, including details of the driver, the reason why transport is required and how long the journey will take or if the arrangement is on a semi-regular basis?
- Have parents/carers signed the travel approval form?
- Establish the suitability of the driver - do they have a working with children check (or their history equivalent)?
- Will anyone else be travelling in the vehicle apart from the identified child/ for example, another adult or another child or young person?

GUIDELINE FOR TRANSPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

AFL SAFE FOOTY GUIDELINES | BE SAFE • FEEL SAFE • PLAY SAFE

TRANSPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



When transporting children and young people, follow these safety measures to reduce risk:

- Ensure the driver has a valid driver's license, car insurance and that the car is road worthy prior to carrying children and/or a young person.
- As a safety measure, where possible, try to have more than one adult in the car or another responsible adult.
- If transporting children on a regular basis, it may be worth considering discussing what child or young person is dropped home first, or where there are multiple volunteers who transport children, alternate the driver.
- Minimise the time an adult has alone with a child or young person.
- Ensure the driver has contact details of the parents/carers.
- Ensure children and young people are comfortable travelling with the designated driver and that they understand the travel arrangements.
- Ensure children and young people always wear seatbelts and sit in the back seat.

Transport should only occur with consent of a parent or carer and if another person in football or emerging (authorised club member, manager, junior football coordinator) is informed by text/email. Where possible, a travel approval form should be signed in advance of transporting children and young people.

Where it's a last-minute emergency, ensure you contact the parent or carer and confirm time of departure and time of arrival at their home with both the parent or carer and their child.

PARENTS/CARERS

Please familiarise yourself with this guideline. Where possible, a travel approval form should be signed in advance of transporting children and young people. If assistance is required completing the travel approval form, please contact your local club or association.

We want all children and young people in football to be safe, feel safe, play safe.

PARENT/GUARDIAN TRAVEL APPROVAL

All children and young people who participate in Australian Football competitions and programs have a right to be safe, feel safe and play safe. Part of our commitment to child safeguarding is ensuring children and young people are provided a safe environment in which to participate in our sport. This includes getting to/from training sessions, matches and organised events.

Please complete the transport approval form if arrangements have been made to pick up/drop off your child.

1 PERSONAL DETAILS

PERSONALISATION	Parent Name	DRIVER/PERSON	Parent Name
DOB	Select Birth Date	DOB (DRIVER/PERSON)	Select Birth Date

2 TRAVEL DETAILS

MODE OF PERMISSION	ORGANISED PERMISSION		
<input type="checkbox"/> Myself <input type="checkbox"/> Myself & [Other (please specify)] <input type="checkbox"/> Myself & [Other (please specify)] <input type="checkbox"/> Myself & [Other (please specify)]	<input type="checkbox"/> Myself <input type="checkbox"/> Myself & [Other (please specify)] <input type="checkbox"/> Myself & [Other (please specify)] <input type="checkbox"/> Myself & [Other (please specify)]		
TRAVEL FROM	Select Location	TRAVEL TO	Select Location
TRAVEL IN	Select Location	TRAVEL TO	Select Location
DATE	Select Date	DATE (DRIVER)	Select Date

MODE OF TRAVEL

In Out Other (please specify) please specify: _____

WILL OTHER PASSENGERS BE TRAVELLING WITH YOU?

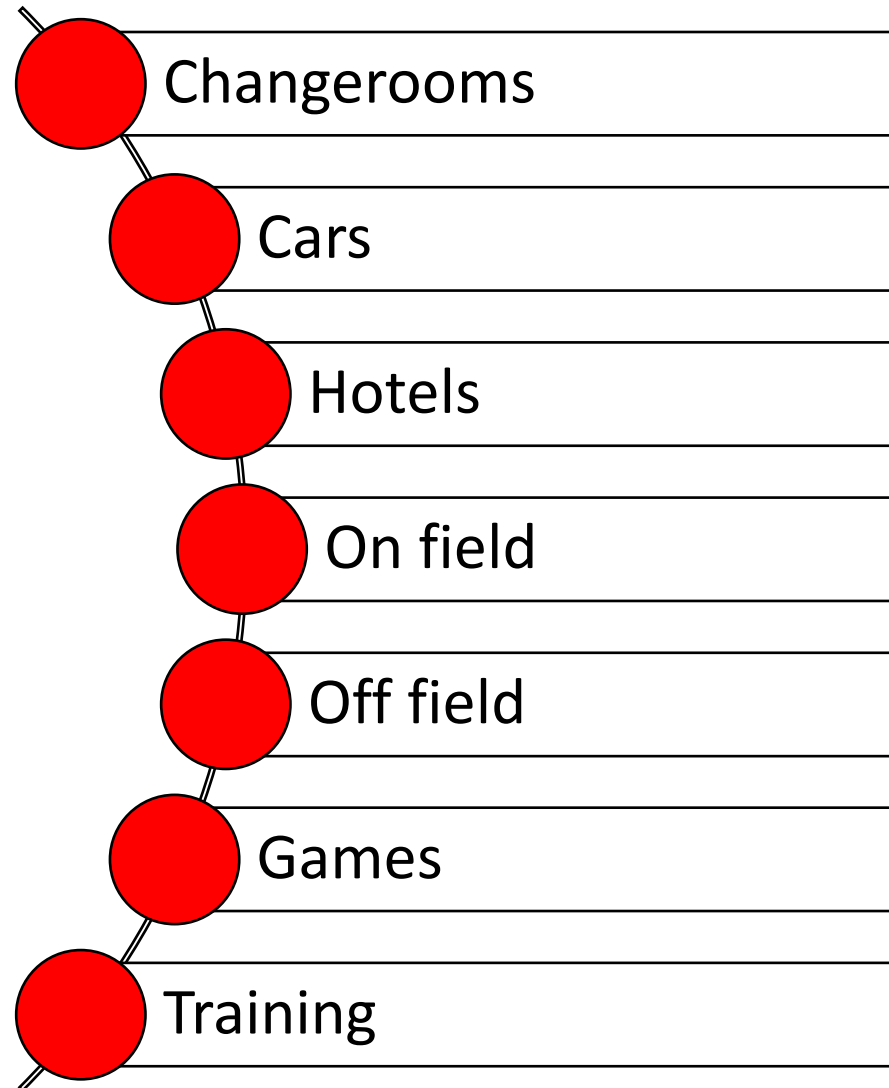
Yes No (Please specify, please specify) _____

3 CONTACT

PERSONALISATION	Parent Name	DRIVER/PERSON	Parent Name
DOB	Select Birth Date	DOB (DRIVER/PERSON)	Select Birth Date
PERSONALISATION	Parent Name	DRIVER/PERSON	Parent Name
DOB	Select Birth Date	DOB (DRIVER/PERSON)	Select Birth Date

A copy of this form should be provided to the relevant club and/or program lead. Where possible, this should be done in advance of transportation of a child or young person.

ENVIRONMENTS



ENVIRONMENT



OK

A safe environment for children and young people at football looks like:

- a space that people from different backgrounds and abilities can access and are comfortable to access
- football trips that are fun and safe for children and young people to attend
- camps where children and young people are given privacy, made to feel welcome and are able to communicate with home when they need to
- change facilities in grounds that are appropriate for any gender
- online spaces where communication is open and transparent and other adults can monitor.



NOT OK

An unsafe environment for children and young people at football looks like:

- a space that is difficult for children and young people with disabilities to access or where people from different cultural backgrounds feel left out
- footy trips or events that involve alcohol or drugs and easily get out of hand with no adults keeping an eye out for children and young people
- camps where children and young people are punished, humiliated or made to feel homesick and uncomfortable
- change facilities in grounds where there is no privacy and children, young people and those who identify as transgender or non-binary feel unsafe
- online spaces where communication is one to one and used to share inappropriate material not related to football.

OVERNIGHT FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES

Sporting tournaments and trips play a significant role in a child and/or young person's life – it forms part of their development and independence, creates a sense of team spirit and belonging and builds life skills in a safe and supported environment.

The AFL is committed to offering these important experiences to children and young people who participate in Australian Football.

AFL SAFE FOOTY GUIDELINES | BE SAFE · FEEL SAFE · PLAY SAFE



OVERNIGHT FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

Sporting tournaments and trips play a significant role in a child and/or young person's life - it forms part of their development and independence, creates a sense of team spirit and belonging and builds life skills in a safe and supported environment.

The AFL is committed to offering these important experiences to children and young people who participate in Australian Football.

Who should use this document?

These guidelines provide information to event organisers, supervision staff, families and participating children and young people to ensure their safety and wellbeing is prioritised and their experiences are both enjoyable and memorable.

DEFINITIONS

Overnight activity: any trip or activity related to football that requires a child or young person to engage in overnight travel.

Child or young person: any person under the age of 18 who is participating in this overnight activity.

Supervising adult: any adult who is responsible for the supervision of children or young people during the overnight activity. This can include a parent who is providing supervision for part of the trip (e.g. not travelling with the group but will supervise them for a day or night of the trip).



PLANNING GUIDELINES

SUPERVISING ADULTS

When planning an overnight activity you should ensure that any person accompanying a team with children and young people has:

- a valid Working with Children Check or State/Territory equivalent that is registered with the club or association they are representing
- received a copy of the relevant child safeguarding policy and code of conduct and has read and signed the code of conduct (AFL, club, league or association)
- a copy of these guidelines and has participated in at least one planning meeting with the other supervising adults
- undertaken safeguarding training
- undertaken additional inclusion training as required (eg. cultural awareness training, supporting children with additional needs).

OVERNIGHT FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES

1



OVERNIGHT FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES



OK

- Only adults that meet safeguarding guidelines are used to accompany children or young people.
- A supervision plan has been completed prior to leaving.
- A risk assessment for all aspects of the trip (including transport & accommodation) is completed prior to leaving.
- Supervision ratios meet minimum requirements
- Supervisors have access to required resources
- The plan is communicated to everyone involved in the trip (including parents of the children and young people)
- Professional boundaries are maintained by all adults involved.
- Physical contact that is normal for football and happens in front of other people and with the child or young person's consent.



NOT OK

- Supervisors are chosen because they volunteer.
- 'We'll make it up as we go' attitude to supervising children and young people.
- Not maintaining required ratios because there are not enough appropriate adults to supervise the trip.
- Children and young people, or their families, are not informed of plans for the trip.
- Leaving a child or young person without supervision, even if they are unwell or injured and can't participate in activities.
- Driving children or young people around in their car recklessly, under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or without permission

RAISING SAFETY CONCERNS

What is a concern?

A concern can be raised by anyone (a child, young person, umpire, official, manager, club member etc.) and be about anything (facilities, behaviour of another child or young person, behaviour or actions of an adult).

If the concern raised by you is in relation to the safety of a child or young person it will be categorised, reported to authorities if required, and recorded in a register.

RAISING SAFETY CONCERNS

What kind of concern might be raised with me?

You may be viewed as a trusted adult to children and young people at your club or association and they could disclose information to you about their concerns of inappropriate behaviour or abuse.

This could be telling you that they are experiencing:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Bullying or harassment, or
- Mental health issues



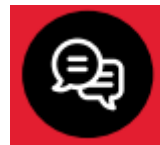
RESPONDING – THE 3 R'S

You don't have to be a professional or an expert in this, they just need you to be a safe and sensible adult.



RECOGNISE

Recognise when a child or young person is at risk.



RESPOND

Respond calmly and sensitively to a child or young person if they tell you about something that has happened to them.



REPORT

You must **SAY SOMETHING.**

RECOGNISE



Know the signs, the indicators and the red flags. Listen to what a child or young person is telling you. Look out for DISCLOSURES, ALLEGATIONS or SUSPICIONS.

ALLEGATIONS

When a child, young person or any other person tells you about an incident that happened to **someone else** or that someone else was directly involved in.

They are raising a concern with you.

DISCLOSURES

When a child or young person tells you about an incident that happened to **them** or that **they** were directly involved in.

They are raising a concern with you.

SUSPICIONS

When you have a reason to suspect an incident of abuse against a child or young person, based on observations, instinct or gut feeling, behaviours and indicators.

You are forming a concern.

RESPOND



There is no expectation for you to play counsellor, psychologist or therapist.

All that is asked of you is to listen, support, and respond to their concern.

Believe them, listen to them, reassure them, and take them seriously. Avoid asking leading questions. Just make sure they are safe and let them know you will do something to help them.



REPORT



SAY SOMETHING

Even if you have not spoken directly with a child or young person but you have a **SUSPICION** that something is not right, it is important that you say something.



Speak directly with someone you trust in football like a coach, team manager, umpire, official or club representative.



Write down your concerns and pass them onto your club or association via email or a letter.



Use this QR code to raise a concern with the AFL.



FAQS

FAQS TO HELP YOU GET YOUR HEAD AROUND IT...

WHAT IF A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON TELLS ME SOMETHING BUT DOESN'T WANT ME TO TELL ANYONE?

Building trust is important, especially if a child or young person is experiencing something that is making them feel unsafe. You can encourage them to speak up, build their confidence, offer to come with them as support and reassure them.



IMPORTANT - As an adult, you are required in most cases, by state and commonwealth law, to report any concern about the safety of a child or young person to the relevant authorities, including Child Protection and/or Police.

However, even when you are not required by law, you still can, and you should.

WILL I LOSE MY JOB AS COACH IF I RAISE A CONCERN?

You should not be treated unfairly for raising a concern.

CAN I RAISE A CONCERN ANONYMOUSLY?

Yes, you can do this contacting the **AFL Integrity Unit** however, please remember that if you don't give us your name, we can't come back to you for further information or to update you on what we are going to do.

DO I NEED TO HAVE PROOF?

No, you don't need to have proof or evidence.

- If someone tells you it happened, say something.
- If you think something has happened, based on what you have seen, heard or felt, and have a 'reasonable belief' that it happened, say something.





ADDITIONAL SUPPORT RESOURCES

Support, education and resources for clubs



COURSE



EXAMPLES OF RESOURCES

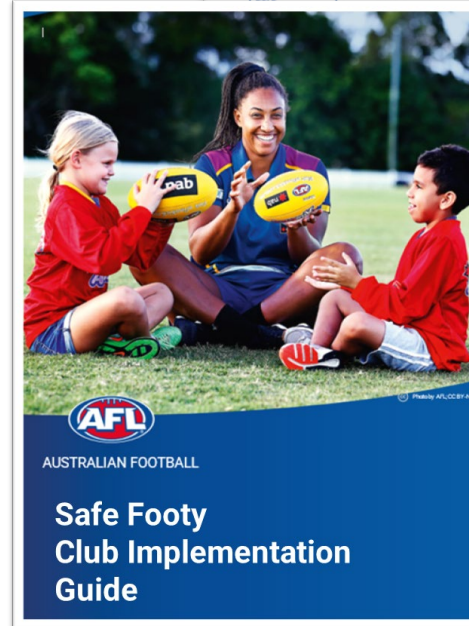
Resources for:

- Children & Young People
- Families & Community
- Coaches & Volunteers
- Umpires & Officials
- Clubs & Associations
 - Overnight Football Activities
 - Child Safeguarding Officer Position Description
 - Risk Assessment Tool
 - Risk Register
 - Social Media Copy
 - Committee Safeguarding Agenda Schedule
 - Legislative Landscape Map
- Child Safeguarding Officer
 - Checklist
 - Club Check In Tool
 - CSO Intro Poster
 - CSO Schedule
 - Implementation Guide



Role Statement Child Safety Officer

ROLE	Club Child Safety Officer (CSO)
REPORTS TO	Club Committee
ABOUT THE ROLE	<p>The CSO role is a volunteer role appointed by the Club's Committee. The role will serve as the first point of contact for club community members and others who have concerns about a child or young person within the Club and provide advice and support to assist that person with making a report.</p> <p>The CSO will champion the safeguarding message and work with the Committee to practically implement the AFL's Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate and promote awareness and understanding of the AFL's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures • Help adults at the Club understand their obligations to protect children and young people and promote their rights • Be the first point of contact for all safeguarding matters • Help members reports complaints, concerns and incidents to the Club, Committee, or the AFL State Entity/AFL for appropriate action



OLD SAFE STANDARDS	STATE/TERRITORY SPECIFIC NSW VIC ACT NT QLD WA TAS	ACT NT QLD WA TAS
MANDATORY REPORTING	SPORT PERSONNEL INCLUDED NT WA	SPORT PERSONNEL EXCLUDED ACT NSW VIC QLD TAS
ACC (OR EQUIVALENT)	SPORTS COACHES ACT NSW NT QLD WA TAS	EXEMPTIONS VIC WA
ABLE TO DISCLOSE	YES ACT VIC NSW	NO WA SA NT
ABLE TO PROTECT	YES ACT NSW NT QLD VIC WA	NO SA TAS
FORMING OFFENCE	YES ACT NSW NT QLD WA TAS	NO

EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS OF COACHES & VOLUNTEERS

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS OF ADULTS IN FOOTBALL?

Coaches and volunteers across AFL programs and community clubs are required to follow safeguarding policies, processes and codes and should make themselves familiar with those relevant to their roles.

Any behaviour from a coach or volunteer that is considered unsafe (and in some cases, illegal) will be addressed by the AFL, a club, league, association or even the police.

This information sheet is not just here to provide you with a guide of how you should behave, but it is also informs you of how other adults should behave, so if you notice something

DEFINITIONS

A Child: someone involved in footy who is 17 years or younger - usually a player but may also be a sibling of a player or child of an adult at the club.

A Young Person: someone involved in footy who is between the ages of 13 and 18 years old - usually a player but could also be an umpire or in another role at the club, or a sibling or child of a player.

Adult: someone involved in footy who is over the age of 18 - this could be a coach, manager, umpire, club official, AFL staff member, volunteer, and/or a parent.

MY RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES AS A YOUNG PERSON INVOLVED IN FOOTY

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IN FOOTY?

As a young person, you have rights, lots of them. They are called the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, check them out!

Having rights makes sure that you are safe and protected doing the things you love, like playing footy!

We want all kids who participate in footy to be safe, feel safe, play safe. Here are some of those rights that relate to footy:

DEFINITIONS

A Child: someone involved in footy who is 12 years or younger - usually a player but may also be a sibling of a player or child of an adult at the club.

A Young Person: someone involved in footy who is between the ages of 13 and 18 years old - usually a player but could also be another role at the club, or a sibling or child of a player.

Adult: someone involved in footy who is over the age of 18 - this could be a coach, club official, AFL staff member, and/or a parent.

We welcome all children from all backgrounds and abilities to play in our game. Everyone who plays Australian Football has the right to Be Safe, Feel Safe, Play Safe.

SAFETY
We want to you to be safe and feel safe when you come to play footy with your friends. If you ever feel unsafe or worried, know it's ok to talk to a trusted person.

RESPECT
Children and young people from all backgrounds and all abilities are welcome to play in our great game.

HAVE YOUR SAY
Your thoughts and views matter to us. We will make sure there are ways for you to have a say and be involved.

TRUST
You can trust that we will listen and act on your feedback. Together we can make play safer for all children and young people.

INFORM
We will give you information and support so you know how we work to keep you safe and what you can do if you feel unsafe.

For further information and support contact:
childsaftey@afl.com.au
aofl.austfoot.com.au/afl-makeareport
Kids helpline 1800 55 1800 (it's free)
www.kidshelpline.com.au



AFL Safeguarding Children Portal

Suite of resources and useful links to help foster a safe and welcoming environment for children and young people in football



<https://www.afl.com.au/clubhelp/safeguarding-children>

Safeguarding Children Resources



Kids (5-12)

View all of our resources for safeguarding children and young people aged 5-12.



Young People (13-18)

View all of our resources for safeguarding young people aged 13-18.



Families and Community

View all of our resources for safeguarding families and the community.



Coaches and Volunteers

View all of our resources for safeguarding coaches and volunteers.



Umpires and Officials

View all of our resources for safeguarding umpires and officials.



Translated Documents and Forms

View all of our resources for safeguarding translated documents and forms.



Further Links

View all of our resources for safeguarding further links.



Safeguarding Webinars

View all of our resources for safeguarding webinars.



Club Templates and Forms

View all of our resources for safeguarding club templates and forms.



AFL Diversity & Inclusion Portal

Information, resources, tools and free online training to help prevent and deal with integrity issues and concerns in sport



<https://www.afl.com.au/clubhelp/diversity>

Play By The Rules

Information, resources, tools and free online training to help prevent and deal with integrity issues and concerns in sport



<https://www.playbytherules.net.au>



COMING NEXT

NEXT SESSION

May 31, 7:30 PM - Community Education

Helping families and young people to understand Child Safeguarding

TIME OUT

WE LIKE DATA!

Head to this link to fill out a 2 min survey to help us understand where you were at the beginning of this session and where you are now!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X39X6TC>



THANK YOU & STAY SAFE

info@dellamartaconsulting.com OR clubhelp@afl.com.au

