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**Child Safe Policy**

## Written By: *Cam Quinten*

**Approved By:** *XXXXXX*

**Endorsed By:** OGFNC Executive:  *(aaa bbb ccc etc)*

## Date for Review: August 2021

## **Purpose**

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the management, staff and volunteers of the Ocean Grove Football & Netball Club (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.

**Commitment to Child Safety**

All children who are a part of the Club have a right to feel and be safe. 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 Club aims to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and have fun and the Club's activities are always carried out in the best interests of the children.

**Application of this Policy**

This policy was developed by the Club and in collaboration with the members of the Committee and sent to all Team Managers for their review and comment. This policy applies to all individuals involved in our organisation (paid and volunteer) including, but not limited to Administrators, Coaches, Officials, Participants, Parents, Players and Spectators.

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 these are circumstances that the Club is committed to reducing the risk of occurrence.

## **Children’s Rights to Safety and Participation**

The Club encourages children to express their views about their safety. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all children who use our services to ‘have a say’ about things that are important to them.

We teach children about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns children, or their parents, raise with us.

**Valuing Diversity**

We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices. To achieve this we:

* promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities and all participant families;
* seek appropriate staff from diverse cultural backgrounds;

**Recruiting staff and volunteers**

The Club takes the following steps to ensure best practice standards in the recruitment and screening of staff and volunteers:

* Require Working with Children Checks for relevant positions.
* Recording details of all relevant positions, including valid Working With Children Checks
* Our commitment to Child Safety and as part of the induction process for new staff or volunteers.
* Require all staff and volunteers to read and formally acknowledge their understanding of the Child Safety Policy
* Implement a Child Safety section as part of Coaches induction and our Coach the Coach courses that we run for our coaches.

**Supporting staff and volunteers**

The Club seeks to attract and retain the best staff and volunteers. We provide support and supervision so people feel valued, respected and fairly treated. We have developed a Code of Conduct to provide guidance to our staff and volunteers, all of whom receive training on the requirements of the Code.

**Reporting a child safety concern or complaint**

The Club has appointed xxxxxx as Child Safety Officer with the specific responsibility for responding to any complaints made by staff, volunteers, parents or children. Our Child Safety Officer will be actively support by the Secretary of The Club and by the Committee. The Child Safety Officer can be contacted by emailing aaa@bbb.com. Our complaints process is outlined in the “OGFNC – Incident Reporting Procedure” document*.*

## **Risk Management**

We recognise the importance of a risk management approach to minimising the potential for child abuse or harm to occur and use this to inform our policy, procedures and activity planning. In addition to general occupational health and safety risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse to our children. To reduce the risk of child abuse occurring, adults to whom this policy applies should avoid direct, unsupervised contact with children. For example, this should be a consideration when:

* using change room facilities;
* using accommodation or overnight stays;
* travel; or
* physical contact when coaching or managing children.

## **Reviewing this policy**

This policy will be reviewed every two years (or more often if required) and we undertake to seek views, comments and suggestions from children, parents, carers, staff and volunteers involved in the Club.

Tasks to be undertaken:

* Nominate and Identify the Club’s Child Safety Officer. Details are to be listed on newslettrers, website etc. This person must hold a valid WWCC. The President or other Executive should be listed as an alternate contact.
* Ensure the club has a current list of WWCCs for all position holders and key roles around the club.
* Ensure both Football and Netball teams are recording WWCC for all relevant positions (coaches, managers, first aid, trainers, etc).
* Communicate the club’s commitment to Child Safe Standards
* Communicate the process for how to report any suspected activity (Refer to “OGFNC – How to Make a Child Safety Complaint” document)*.*
* Ensure that the Community – players, parents, members, officials are all aware that there is a process for making a complaint or a report, and this is communicated to all, in particular to children. The CSO (Child Safety Officer) a safe person for them to approach as the first port call if they are feeling unsafe.

**Appendix 1.**

**FROM AFL Victoria:**

AFL Victoria expects that Clubs with Junior teams (Under 18) will, as a minimum, have the following people obtain a WWCC:

•All Executive Committee Members –President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, as well as Canteen Manager/Supervisor

•Child Safety Officer

•Coaches of all Junior teams

•Team Managers of all Junior teams

•Club Trainers of all Junior teams

•Any adult attending overnight trips with any Junior teams

•Other members of the club Junior teams who are involved in regular contact with children

In the case where Junior players are playing in a Senior team, the minimum requirement for a Club is that the following people obtain a WWCC:

•Coaches of any team that will have a Junior player

•Team Managers of any team that will have a Junior player

•Club Trainers of any team that will have a Junior player