



Gymnastics
Australia

MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

Version 7

Gymnastics Australia Member Protection Policy Effective from 16 February 2014

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**REVIEW HISTORY OF GYMNASTICS AUSTRALIA'S
MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY**

Version	Date reviewed	Date endorsed
One	October 2000	December 2000
Two	February 2004	
Three	June 2005	
Four	July 2007	August 2007
Five	January 2010	February 2010
Six	August 2012	August 2012
Seven	February 2014	February 2014

PREFACE

Gymnastics Australia Ltd (GA) is committed to providing a sport and work environment free of discrimination and harassment (sexual or otherwise), where individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Gymnastics Australia will not tolerate discriminatory or harassment behaviour under any circumstances and will take disciplinary action against anyone who breaches this Member Protection policy.

Gymnastics Australia's Member Protection policy is part of the organisation's proactive and preventative approach to tackling inappropriate behaviour.

Gymnastics Australia is committed to ensuring that the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children are maintained at all times during their participation in activities run by Gymnastics Australia and its member bodies. Accordingly, any person involved in the instruction, management or coaching of any member under the age of 18 years may be asked to undergo screening procedures including police and other probity checks.



Grant Harrison
PRESIDENT



Mark Rendell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Gymnastics Australia Ltd
February 2014

PART A – MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

1. Introduction

Gymnastics Australia (**GA**) set out their vision, mission and values as follows:

(a) **Vision**

Enriching lives through Gymnastics.

(b) **Mission**

To promote, develop and grow Gymnastics for the enjoyment of all.

(c) **Values**

Leadership: We will provide strong leadership and effective management, in all our activities to provide a positive experience for all

Teamwork: We will provide support to one another, working co-operatively, in unity, and with open and effective communication to make our environment fun and enjoyable in achieving our shared vision for the growth and development of Gymnastics.

Respect: We recognise and value the contributions all people make to Gymnastics, respecting one another's views and by treating them with dignity and consideration.

Excellence: We promote a performance culture with a focus on results through a commitment to innovation, flexibility and continuous improvement.

Integrity: We are committed to ensuring a strong reputation for the integrity of gymnastics by maintaining the highest standards of ethical and fair behaviour.

2. Purpose of this policy

This Member Protection Policy (**policy**) aims to maintain ethical and informed decision-making and responsible behaviours within our sport. It outlines our commitment to a person's right to be treated with respect and dignity and to be safe and protected from abuse. This policy informs everyone involved in our sport of his or her legal and ethical rights and responsibilities and the standards of behaviour that are required.

The policy attachments outline the procedures that support our commitment to eliminating discrimination, harassment, child abuse and other forms of inappropriate behaviour from our sport. As part of this commitment, GA will take disciplinary action against any person or organisation bound by this policy if they breach it.

This policy has been endorsed by the GA Board of Directors and has been adopted as one of GA's official policies in accordance with clause 22 of the GA Constitution. The policy starts on the date it is adopted by the board and will operate until replaced. This policy and/or its attachments may be amended from time to time by the GA Board of Directors in accordance with the GA Constitution. Copies of the policy and its attachments can be obtained from our office or the GA website at www.gymnastics.org.au .

For information on the rights, responsibilities and requirements for people involved in our sport at the state and club level, please refer to the member protection policies of the relevant state association or club.

3. Who this Policy Applies To

This policy applies to the following people, whether they are in a paid or unpaid/voluntary capacity:

- 3.1 Persons appointed or elected to boards, committees and sub-committees;
- 3.2 Employees, contractors and volunteers of GA;
- 3.3 Members of the National Gymsport Commissions;
- 3.4 Support personnel appointed or elected to teams and squads (e.g. managers, physiotherapists, psychologists, masseurs, sport trainers);
- 3.5 Coaches and assistant coaches;
- 3.6 athletes;
- 3.7 Judges and other officials involved in the regulation of the sport;
- 3.8 Members, including life members;
- 3.9 Athletes, coaches, officials and other personnel participating in events and activities, including camps and training sessions, held or sanctioned by GA;
- 3.10 Any other person including spectators, parents/guardians and sponsors, who or which agrees in writing (whether on a ticket, entry form or otherwise) to be bound by this policy;

This policy also applies to the following associations:

- 3.11 any Member of Gymnastics Australia (**Member**);
- 3.12 clubs, organisations or persons affiliated with Gymnastics Australia or its members;

Association Members are required to adopt and implement this policy and to provide proof to GA of the approval of the policy by the relevant board in accordance with its constitution. Association Members must also undertake to ensure that affiliated Clubs and individual Members are bound by this policy and are made aware of this policy and what it says.

This policy will continue to apply to a person or Member, even after they have stopped their association or employment with GA, if disciplinary action against that person has commenced.

4. Responsibilities of the Organisation

Gymnastics Australia, Association Members and affiliated clubs must:

- 4.1 Adopt, implement and comply with this policy;
- 4.2 Make such amendments to their Constitution, Rules or Policies necessary for this policy to be enforceable;
- 4.3 Publish, distribute and promote this policy and the consequences of breaches;
- 4.4 Promote and model appropriate standards of behaviour at all times;
- 4.5 Promptly deal with any breaches or complaints made under this policy in a sensitive, fair, timely and confidential manner;
- 4.6 Apply this policy consistently;
- 4.7 Recognise and enforce any penalty imposed under this policy;
- 4.8 Ensure that a copy of this policy is available or accessible to the persons and associations to whom this policy applies;
- 4.9 Use appropriately trained people to receive and manage complaints and allegations (Member Protection Information Officers (**MPIOs**));
- 4.10 Monitor and review this policy at least annually.

5. Individual Responsibilities

Individuals bound by this policy are responsible for:

- 5.1 Making themselves aware of the policy and complying with its standards of behaviour;

- 5.2 Complying with GA's screening requirements and any state/territory Working with Children checks;
- 5.3 Placing the safety and welfare of children above other considerations;
- 5.4 Being accountable for their behaviour;
- 5.5 Following the procedures outlined in this policy if they wish to make a complaint or report a concern about possible child abuse, discrimination, harassment or other inappropriate behaviour; and
- 5.6 Complying with any decisions and/or disciplinary measures imposed under this policy.

6. Position Statements

6.1 Child Protection

GA is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people accessing our services. We support the rights of the child and will act without hesitation to ensure a child safe environment is maintained at all times. We also support the rights and wellbeing of our staff, contractors and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants.

GA acknowledges that our staff, Members, contractors and volunteers provide a valuable contribution to the positive experiences of children involved in our sport. GA aims to continue this and to take measures to protect the safety and welfare of children participating in our sport by:

6.1.1: Develop Codes of Conduct for Adults and Children

GA will ensure that the organisation has codes of conduct that specify standards of conduct and care in relation to adults and children. The code(s) of conduct will set out professional boundaries, ethical behaviour and unacceptable behaviour. (See Part B)

6.1.2: Choose Suitable Employees and Volunteers

GA will ensure that the organisation takes all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children (in prescribed positions).

This may be achieved using a range of screening measures. Such measures will aim to minimise the likelihood of engaging (or retaining) people who are unsuitable to work with children.

GA will ensure that working with children checks/criminal history assessments are conducted for employees, contractors and volunteers working with children, where an assessment is required by law.

If a criminal history report is obtained as part of their screening process, GA will ensure that the criminal history information is dealt with in accordance with relevant state requirements. (See Part C)

6.1.3: Support, Train, Supervise and Enhance Performance

GA will ensure that contractors, volunteers and employees who work with children have ongoing supervision, support and training such that their performance is developed and enhanced to promote the establishment and maintenance of a child-safe environment.

6.1.4: Empower and Promote the Participation of Children In Decision-Making And Service Development

GA will promote the involvement and participation of children and young people in developing and maintaining child-safe environments.

6.1.5: Report and Respond Appropriately To Suspected Abuse and Neglect

GA will ensure that volunteers and employees are able to identify and respond to children at risk of harm.

GA will make all volunteers and employees aware of their responsibilities under respective state laws if they have suspicion on reasonable grounds that a child has been or is being abused or neglected. (See Part E)

In addition to any legal obligation, if any person feels another person or organisation bound by this policy is acting inappropriately towards a child or is breaching the code(s) of practice set out they may make an internal complaint. Please refer to our complaints procedure outlined in attachment D1 of this policy. This will explain what to do about the behaviour and how GA will deal with the problem.

6.2 Taking Images of Children

Images of children can be used inappropriately or illegally. GA requires that individuals and associations, wherever possible, obtain permission from a child's parent/guardian before taking an image of a child that is not their own and ensure that the parent knows the way the image will be used. GA also requires the privacy of others to be respected and disallow the use of camera phones, videos and cameras inside changing areas, showers and toilets.

If GA uses an image of a child it will avoid naming or identifying the child or it will, wherever possible, avoid using both the first name and surname. GA will not display personal information such as residential address, email address or telephone numbers without gaining consent from the parent/guardian. GA will not display information about hobbies, likes/dislikes, school, etc as this information can be used as grooming tools by pedophiles or other persons. GA will only use appropriate images of a child, relevant to our sport and ensure that the child is suitably clothed in a manner that promotes the sport, displays its successes, etc. Where possible GA will seek permission to use these images.

GA requires our members, member associations and clubs to do likewise.

6.3 Anti-Discrimination and Harassment

GA opposes all forms of harassment, discrimination and bullying. This includes treating or proposing to treat someone less favourably because of a particular characteristic; imposing or intending to impose an unreasonable requirement, condition or practice which has an unequal or disproportionate effect on people with a particular characteristic; or any behaviour that is offensive, abusive, belittling, intimidating or threatening – whether this is face-to-face, indirectly or via communication technologies such as mobile phone and computers. Some forms of harassment, discrimination and bullying, based on personal characteristics such as those listed in the Dictionary at clause 10, are against the law.

If any person feels they are being harassed or discriminated against by another person or organisation bound by this policy, please refer to our complaints procedure outlined in attachment D1 of this Policy. This will explain what to do about the behaviour and how GA will deal with the problem.

6.4 Sexual Relationships

GA takes the position that sexual relationships between coaches and the adult athletes that they coach should be avoided as these relationships can have harmful effects on the individual athlete involved, on other athletes and coaches, and on the sport's public image. Such relationships may be intentionally or unintentionally exploitative due to a disparity between coaches and athletes in terms of authority, power, maturity, status, influence and dependence.

Should a sexual relationship exist between an athlete and coach, GA will consider whether any action is necessary. Factors that may be relevant in this consideration are the age and maturity of the athlete relative to the coach, the financial or emotional dependence of the athlete on the coach, and the likelihood of the relationship having any adverse impact on the athlete and/or other athletes. If it is determined that the sexual relationship is inappropriate, action may be taken to stop the coaching relationship with the athlete. Action may include transfer, a request for resignation or dismissal from coaching duties.

In the event that an athlete attempts to initiate an intimate sexual relationship, the coach must take personal responsibility for discouraging such approaches, explaining the ethical basis for such action. The coach or athlete may wish to approach GA's MPIO or complaints officer or other designated person if they feel harassed. GA's complaints procedure is outlined in Attachment D1 of this policy.

6.5 Pregnancy

Everyone bound by this policy must treat pregnant women with dignity and respect and any unreasonable barriers to participation by them in our sport should be removed. GA will not tolerate any discrimination or harassment against pregnant women.

While many sporting activities are safe for pregnant women, there may be particular risks that apply to some women during pregnancy. Those risks will depend on the nature of the sporting activity and the particular pregnant woman's circumstances. Pregnant women should be aware that their own health and wellbeing, and that of their unborn children, should be of utmost importance in their decision making about the way they participate in our sport.

GA recommends that pregnant women wanting to participate in our sport consult with their medical advisors, make themselves aware of the facts about pregnancy in sport, and ensure that they make informed decisions about participation. GA will only require pregnant women to sign a disclaimer if GA requires other participants to sign one in similar circumstances. GA will not require women to undertake a pregnancy test.

6.6 Gender Identity

Everyone bound by this policy must treat people who identify as transgender fairly and with dignity and respect. This includes acting with sensitivity and respect where a person is undergoing gender transition. GA will not tolerate any unlawful discrimination or harassment of a person who identifies as transgender or transsexual or who is thought to be transgender. Descriptions of the types of behaviour which could be regarded as transgender discrimination or harassment are provided in the Dictionary at clause 10.

GA recognises that the exclusion of transgender people from participation in sporting events has significant implications for their health, well-being and involvement in community life. In general, GA will facilitate transgender persons participating in our sport with the gender with which they identify.

GA also recognises there is debate over whether a male to female transgender person obtains any physical advantage over other female participants. This debate is reflected in the divergent discrimination laws across the country. If issues of performance advantage arise, GA will seek advice on the application of those laws in the particular circumstances.

GA is aware that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has established criteria for selection and participation in the Olympic Games. Where a transgender person intends competing at an elite level, GA will encourage them to obtain advice about the IOC's criteria which may differ from the position taken by GA.

Drug testing procedures and prohibitions also apply to people who identify as transgender. A person receiving treatment involving a Prohibited Substance or Method, as described on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List, should apply for a standard Therapeutic Use Exemption.

6.7 Alcohol Policy

GA recommends that State Associations and their member Clubs adhere to strict guidelines regarding the responsible consumption of alcohol. Generally, alcohol should not be available nor be consumed at a sporting event at which children under 18 are participants in the sport. Responsible service and consumption of alcohol should apply to any alcohol to be consumed after the competition has concluded, including light alcohol and soft drinks always being available; wherever possible, food being available to be consumed when alcohol is available; transport policies etc. Guidance can be obtained from the "Alcohol Management Policy" available at <http://www.playbytherules.net.au/resources/club-toolkit>

6.8 Smoking Policy

The following policies should be applied to sporting and social events:

- No smoking shall occur at or near any sporting event or competition involving persons under the age of 18. This policy shall apply to coaches, players, trainers, officials, contractors and volunteers;
- Social functions shall be smoke free, with smoking permitted at designated outdoor smoking areas;
- Coaches, officials, trainers, contractors, volunteers and players will refrain from smoking and remain smoke free while involved in an official capacity for any of GA, SSO, Club or representative team, on and off the field.

6.9 Cyber Bullying/Safety

Bullying and harassment in all forms is regarded by GA as unacceptable in this sport. Given the emergence of new telephone and internet social networks, the opportunity for unwanted and improper comments and statements has dramatically increased. Messages or statements made in these ways using these means of communication are largely instantaneous, and can easily be abused. Others may also manipulate a person by encouraging a statement to be made on twitter or Facebook, for example, when the writer may be upset or vulnerable. Bullying has the potential to cause great anxiety and distress to the person who has been the target of any comments or statements. In some cases, bullying is regarded as a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment, amongst other things. Frustration at a referee, team-mate, coach, or sporting body should never be communicated on social network channels, but rather by way of reasoned and logical verbal and written statements and where appropriate, complaints, to the relevant controlling club, league or peak sporting body.

6.10 Social Networking Websites Policy

GA acknowledges the emergence of new technology and communication mediums (new media), and wishes to enable such new media to be used to benefit the sport and its participants, and to applaud achievements. This can occur due to the immediate nature of communication to a wide audience using channels such as Facebook, twitter, and SMS. However, participants within the sport need to be very mindful of a few key matters that could lead to inappropriate use of new media, at times unintended, and at other times without a proper understanding that once comments are made or published, they are in public for a long time, and hard to take back (retract). Cautions GA recommends:

- Do not include personal information of yourself or others in social media channels;
- Do not use offensive, provocative or hateful language;
- Use your best judgment – do not publish something that makes you the slightest bit uncomfortable, and never write/publish if you are feeling emotional or upset (or are intoxicated);
- Always ask for a person's permission before posting their picture on a social networking forum;
- Never comment on rumours, do not deny or affirm them or speculate about rumours; and
- Always use social network forums to add value and promote the sport in a positive way.

7. Complaints Procedures

7.1 Complaints

GA aims to provide a simple procedure for complaints based on the principles of procedural fairness (natural justice). Any person (a complainant) may report a complaint about a person/s or organisation bound by this policy (respondent). Such complaints should be reported to the MPIO.

A complaint should be dealt with at the relevant level. Therefore, if a complaint relates to behaviour or an incident that occurred at the:

- state level or involves people operating at the state level, then the complaint should be reported to and handled by the relevant state association in the first instance; or
- club level or involves people operating at the club level, then the complaint should be reported to and handled by the relevant club in the first instance.

Only matters that relate to or occur at the national level and the most serious cases from club and state level should be referred to the national body.

A complaint may be dealt with informally or formally. The complainant usually decides this unless the MPIO or other relevant person within the member organisation or affiliated club considers that the complaint falls outside this policy and would be better dealt with another way and/or the law requires the complaint/allegation to be reported to an appropriate authority.

All complaints will be dealt with promptly, seriously, sensitively and confidentially. Our complaint procedures are outlined in attachment D1. In circumstances where the complaint falls outside the parameters of the Complaints Procedure (attachment D1) then the GA Grievance By-Law 3 might be relied upon.

Individuals and organisations may also pursue their complaint externally under anti-discrimination, child protection, criminal or other relevant legislation.

7.2 Vexatious Complaints & Victimisation

GA aims for our complaints procedure to have integrity and be free of unfair repercussions or victimisation. If at any point in the complaints process the MPIO considers that a complainant has **knowingly** made an untrue complaint or the complaint is vexatious or malicious, the matter may be referred to the GA Discipline Committee for appropriate action which may include disciplinary action against the complainant.

GA will take all necessary steps to make sure that people involved in a complaint are not victimised. Disciplinary measures can be imposed on anyone who harasses or victimises another person for making a complaint.

7.3 Mediation

GA aims to resolve complaints with a minimum of fuss. Complaints may be resolved by agreement between the people involved with no need for disciplinary action. Mediation allows those involved to be heard and to come up with mutually agreed solutions.

Mediation may occur before or after the investigation of a complaint. If a complainant wishes to resolve the complaint with the help of a mediator, the MPIO will, where he or she determines it to be appropriate, arrange for a neutral third party mediator where possible. Notwithstanding anything contained in the GA Grievance By-Law 3, lawyers are not able to negotiate on behalf of the complainant and/or the respondent in relation to a complaint referred to it under this Policy. More information on the mediation process is outlined in Attachment D2.

7.4 GA Discipline Committee

The GA Discipline Committee may be convened to hear a formal complaint referred to it by the CEO. The CEO has the direction to determine whether a complaint is:

- referred to the GA Discipline Committee under this Policy; or
- not suitable for referral to the GA Discipline Committee Tribunal.

The GA Discipline Committee procedure is outlined in attachment D5.

A respondent may lodge an appeal only to the GA Appeals Commissioner in respect of a decision of the GA Discipline Committee. The decision of the GA Appeals Commissioner is final and binding on the people involved. Our appeals process is outlined in attachment D5.

Every organisation bound by this policy will recognise and enforce any decision of the GA Disciplinary Committee or GA Appeals Commissioner under this policy.

8. What is a Breach of this policy

It is a breach of this policy for any person or organisation to which this policy applies, to do anything contrary to this policy, including but not limited to:

- 8.1 Breaching the Codes of Behaviour (attachment B to this policy);
- 8.2 Bringing the sport and/or GA into disrepute, or acting in a manner likely to bring the sport and GA into disrepute;
- 8.3 Failing to follow GA policies (including this policy) and procedures for the protection, safety and welfare of children;
- 8.4 Discriminating against, harassing or bullying (including cyber bullying) any person;
- 8.5 Victimising another person for reporting a complaint;
- 8.6 Engaging in a sexually inappropriate relationship with a person that they supervise, or have influence, authority or power over;
- 8.7 Verbally or physically assaulting another person, intimidating another person or creating a hostile environment within the sport;

- 8.8 Disclosing to any unauthorised person or organisation any GA information that is of a private, confidential or privileged nature;
- 8.9 Making a complaint they **knew** to be untrue, vexatious, malicious or improper;
- 8.10 Failing to comply with a penalty imposed after a finding that the individual or organisation has breached this policy; or
- 8.11 Failing to comply with a direction given to the individual or organisation during the discipline process.

9. Disciplinary Measures

If an individual or organisation to which this policy applies breaches this policy, one or more forms of discipline may be imposed. Any disciplinary measure imposed under this policy must:

- Be applied consistent with any contractual and employment rules and requirements;
- Be fair and reasonable;
- Be based on the evidence and information presented and the seriousness of the breach; and
- Be determined in accordance with our Constitution, By Laws, this policy and/or Rules of the sport.

9.1 Individual

Subject to contractual and employment requirements, if a finding is made by the GA Discipline Committee that an individual has breached this policy, one or more of the following forms of discipline may be imposed:

- 9.1.1 A direction that the individual make a verbal and/or written apology;
- 9.1.2 A written warning;
- 9.1.3 A direction that the individual attend counselling to address their behaviour;
- 9.1.4 A withdrawal of any award, placing, record, achievement bestowed in any tournament, activity or event held or sanctioned by GA,
- 9.1.5 A demotion or transfer of the individual to another location, role or activity;
- 9.1.6 A suspension of the individual's membership or participation or engagement in a role or activity;
- 9.1.7 Termination of the individual's membership, appointment or engagement;
- 9.1.8 A recommendation that GA terminates the individual's membership, appointment or engagement;
- 9.1.9 In the case of a coach or official, a direction that the relevant organisation de-register the accreditation of the coach or official for a period of time or permanently;
- 9.1.10 A fine;
- 9.1.11 Any other form of discipline that the CEO considers appropriate.

9.2 Organisation

If a finding is made that an Association Member or affiliated club has breached its own or this Member Protection policy, one or more of the following forms of discipline may be imposed by the GA Discipline Committee:

- 9.2.1 A written warning;
- 9.2.2 A fine;
- 9.2.3 A direction that any rights, privileges and benefits provided to that organisation by the national body or other peak association be suspended for a specified period;
- 9.2.4 A direction that any funding granted or given to it by GA cease from a specified date (or for a specified period);
- 9.2.5 A direction that GA cease to sanction events held by or under the auspices of that organisation;
- 9.2.6 A recommendation to GA that its membership of GA be suspended or terminated in accordance with the relevant constitution or rules; and/or

- 9.2.7 Any other form of discipline that the national body or peak organisation considers to be reasonable and appropriate.

9.3 Factors to consider

The form of discipline to be imposed on an individual or organisation will depend on factors such as:

- Nature and seriousness of the breach;
- If the person knew or should have known that the behaviour was a breach;
- Level of contrition;
- The effect of the proposed disciplinary measures on the person including any personal, professional or financial consequences;
- If there have been relevant prior warnings or disciplinary action;
- Ability to enforce discipline if the person is a parent or spectator (even if they are bound by the policy); and/or
- Any other mitigating circumstances.

10. Dictionary

This Dictionary sets out the meaning of words used in this policy and its attachments without limiting the ordinary and natural meaning of the words. State/Territory specific definitions and more detail on some of the words in this dictionary can be sourced from the relevant State/Territory child protection commissions or equal opportunity and anti-discrimination commissions.

Abuse is a form of harassment and includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and abuse of power. Examples of abusive behaviour include bullying, humiliation, verbal abuse and insults.

Affiliated club means a club affiliated with Gymnastics Australia and an Association Member, recognised by Gymnastics Australia under clause 5.6 of the GA Constitution.

Association Member (State Associations) means an Association affiliated with Gymnastics Australia, recognised by Gymnastics Australia under clauses 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 of the GA Constitution.

Child means a person who is under the age of 18 years

Child abuse involves conduct which puts children at risk of harm (usually by adults, sometimes by other children) and often by those they know and trust. It can take many forms, including verbal and physical actions and by people failing to provide them with basic care. Child abuse may include:

- Physical abuse by hurting a child or a child's development (e.g. hitting, shaking or other physical harm; giving a child alcohol or drugs; or training that exceeds the child's development or maturity).
- Sexual abuse by adults or other children where a child is encouraged or forced to watch or engage in sexual activity or where a child is subject to any other inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature (e.g. sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, pornography including child pornography or inappropriate touching or conversations).
- Emotional abuse by ill-treating a child (e.g. humiliation, taunting, sarcasm, yelling, negative criticism, name calling, ignoring or placing unrealistic expectations on a child).
- Neglect (e.g. failing to give food, water, shelter or clothing or to protect a child from danger or foreseeable risk of harm or injury).

Complaint means a complaint made under clause 7.

Complainant means a person making a complaint.

Complaint Handler/Manager means a person appointed under this policy to investigate a Complaint.

Discrimination means treating or proposing to treat someone less favourably because of a particular characteristic in the same or similar circumstances in certain areas of public life (Direct Discrimination), or imposing or intending to impose an unreasonable requirement, condition or practice that is the same for everyone, but which has an unequal or disproportionate effect on individuals or groups with particular characteristics (Indirect Discrimination). The characteristics covered by discrimination law across Australia are:

- Age;
- Disability;
- Family/carer responsibilities;
- Gender identity/transgender status;
- Homosexuality and sexual orientation;
- Irrelevant medical record;
- Irrelevant criminal record;
- Political belief/activity;
- Pregnancy and breastfeeding;
- Race;
- Religious belief/activity;
- Sex or gender;
- Social origin;
- Trade union membership/activity.

(Some States and Territories include additional characteristics such as physical features or association with a person with one or more of the characteristics listed above).

Examples of Discrimination

- **Age:** A club refuses to allow an older person to coach a team simply because of age.
- **Breastfeeding:** A member of the club who is breastfeeding a baby in the club rooms is asked to leave.
- **Disability:** A junior player is overlooked because of mild epilepsy.
- **Family responsibilities:** A club decides not to promote an employee because he has a child with a disability even though the employee is the best person for the job.
- **Gender Identity:** A transgender contract worker is harassed when employees refuse to call her by her female name.
- **Homosexuality:** An athlete is ostracised from her team after it becomes known that she is a lesbian.
- **Marital Status:** A player is deliberately excluded from team activities and social functions because she is single
- **Pregnancy:** A woman is dropped from a squad when she becomes pregnant.
- **Race:** An Italian referee is not permitted to referee games with a high proportion of Italian players on one team because of his race.
- **Sex:** Specialist coaching is only offered to male players in a mixed team.

GA Discipline and Appeals By-Law means the GA Discipline and Appeals By-Law 4 approved by the GA Board on 29 April 2007 as amended from time to time.

GA Discipline Committee means the committee constituted pursuant to GA's Discipline and Appeals By-law 4.

GA Grievance By-Law means the GA Grievance By-Law 3 approved by the GA Board on 29 April 2007 as amended from time to time.

Harassment is any type of behaviour that the other person does not want and that is offensive, abusive, belittling or threatening. The behaviour is unwelcome and a reasonable

person would recognise it as being unwelcome and likely to cause the recipient to feel offended, humiliated or intimidated.

Unlawful harassment is sexual or targets a person because of their race, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation or some other characteristic (see characteristic list under discrimination).

It does not matter whether the harassment was intended: the focus is on the impact of the behaviour. The basic rule is if someone else finds it harassing then it could be harassment. Harassment may be a single incident but is usually repeated. It may be explicit or implicit, verbal or non-verbal and includes electronic cyber communication.

Discrimination and harassment are not permitted in employment (including volunteer and unpaid employment); when providing sporting goods and services including access to sporting facilities; when providing education and accommodation; the selection or otherwise of any person for competition or a team (domestic or international); the entry or otherwise of any player or other person to any competition and the obtaining or retaining membership of clubs and organisations (including the rights and privileges of membership).

Some exceptions to state and federal anti-discrimination law apply. Examples include:

- holding a competitive sporting activity for females only who are under 12 years of age or of any age where strength, stamina or physique is relevant; or
- not selecting a participant if the person's disability means he or she is not reasonably capable of performing the actions reasonably required for that particular sporting activity.

Requesting, assisting, instructing, inducing or encouraging another person to engage in discrimination or harassment may also be against the law.

It is also a breach of discrimination law to victimise a person who is involved in making a complaint of discrimination or harassment. Example: a player is ostracised by her male coach for complaining about his sexist behaviour or for supporting another player who has made such a complaint.

Public acts of racial hatred which are reasonably likely to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate are also prohibited. This applies to spectators, participants or any other person who engages in such an act in public. Some states and territories also prohibit public acts that vilify on other grounds such as homosexuality, gender identity, HIV/AIDS, religion and disability – see vilification.

Honorary Member means any person admitted to Gymnastics Australia as an Honorary Member under clause 5.9 of the GA Constitution.

Life Member means a person granted life membership of Gymnastics Australia under clause 5.10 of the GA Constitution.

Mediator means an impartial/neutral person appointed to mediate Complaints.

Member means a member of GA as set out in clause 5 of the GA Constitution.

Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) means a person trained to be the first point of contact for a person reporting a complaint under, or a breach of, this Policy.

Natural justice (also referred to as procedural fairness) incorporates the following principles:

- both the Complainant and the Respondent must know the full details of what is being said against them and have the opportunity to respond;
- all relevant submissions must be considered;
- no person may judge their own case;
- the decision maker/s must be unbiased, fair and just;
- the penalties imposed must be fair.

Police check means a national criminal history record check conducted as a pre-employment, pre-engagement or current employment background check on a person.

This policy means this Member Protection Policy.

Respondent means the person who is being complained about.

Role-specific codes of conduct (or behaviour) means standards of conduct required of certain roles (e.g. coaches).

Sexual harassment means unwanted, unwelcome or uninvited behaviour of a sexual nature which makes a person feel humiliated, intimidated or offended. Sexual harassment can take many different forms and may include unwanted physical contact, verbal comments, jokes, propositions, display of pornographic or offensive material or other behaviour that creates a sexually hostile environment.

Sexual harassment is not behaviour based on mutual attraction, friendship and respect. If the interaction is between consenting adults, it is not sexual harassment.

Sexual offence means a criminal offence involving sexual activity or acts of indecency including but not limited to (due to differences under state/territory legislation):

- Rape
- Indecent assault
- Sexual assault
- Assault with intent to have sexual intercourse
- Incest
- Sexual penetration of child under the age of 16
- Indecent act with child under the age of 16
- Sexual relationship with child under the age of 16
- Sexual offences against people with impaired mental functioning
- Abduction and detention
- Procuring sexual penetration by threats or fraud
- Procuring sexual penetration of child under the age of 16
- Bestiality
- Soliciting acts of sexual penetration or indecent acts
- Promoting or engaging in acts of child prostitution
- Obtaining benefits from child prostitution
- Possession of child pornography
- Publishing child pornography and indecent articles.

Technical Member means any person registered to an Association Member and Gymnastics Australia under clause 5.8 of the GA Constitution.

Transgender is a general term applied to individuals and behaviours that differ from the gender role commonly, but not always, assigned at birth. It does not imply any specific form of sexual orientation.

Victimisation means subjecting a person or threatening to subject a person to any detriment or unfair treatment because that person has or intends to pursue their rights to make a complaint under government legislation (e.g. anti-discrimination) or under this Policy, or for supporting such a person.

Vilification involves a person or organisation doing public acts to incite hatred towards, serious contempt for, or severe ridicule of a person or group of persons having any of the attributes or characteristics within the meaning of discrimination. Public acts that may amount to vilification include any form of communication to the public and any conduct observable by the public.

PART B: CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

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ATTACHMENT B1: GENERAL CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

As a member of GA, a Member Association or an affiliated club or a person required to comply with this Policy, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by GA, a Member Association or an affiliated club and in any role you hold within GA, a Member Association or an affiliated club:

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.
2. Be fair, considerate and honest in all dealing with others.
3. Be professional in, and accept responsibility for, your actions.
4. Make a commitment to providing quality service.
5. Be aware of, and maintain an uncompromising adherence to, Gymnastics Australia's standards, rules, regulations and policies.
6. Operate within the rules of the sport including national and international guidelines which govern Gymnastics Australia, the Member Associations and the affiliated clubs.
7. Do not use your involvement with Gymnastics Australia, a Member Association or an affiliated club to promote your own beliefs, behaviours or practices where these are inconsistent with those of Gymnastics Australia, a Member Association or an affiliated club.
8. Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.
9. Avoid unaccompanied and unobserved activities with persons under 18 years of age, wherever possible.
10. Refrain from any form of harassment of others.
11. Refrain from any behaviour that may bring Gymnastics Australia, a Member Association or an affiliated club into disrepute.
12. Provide a safe environment for the conduct of the activity.
13. Show concern and caution towards others who may be sick or injured.
14. Be a positive role model.
15. Understand the repercussions if you breach, or are aware of any breaches of, this code of behaviour.

ATTACHMENT B2: COACHES' CODE OF ETHICS

In addition to GA's General Code of Behaviour (Attachment B1), you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by GA, a Member Association or an affiliated club and in your role as a coach appointed by GA, a Member Association or an affiliated club:

Abide by the rules of Gymnastics Australia as set forth in its constitution and by-laws.

- follow procedures for enforcement of the Code of Ethics;
- accept any judgments made; and
- use the established procedures for challenging a competitive result, contesting a team selection decision, complaining about the conduct of another member, or attempting to change policy of Gymnastics Australia.

Direct your observations and recommendations regarding all aspects of gymnastics to the appropriate persons for the betterment of the sport.

- be constructive with criticisms and direct comments and observations to the relevant individuals and organisations, to avoid gossip, innuendo and malicious comment; and
- respect the efforts of appointed and elected representatives of Gymnastics Australia

Represent yourself and your coaching status in an honest and professional manner, without bringing the coaching profession or Gymnastics Australia into disrepute

- use your accreditation status and Technical Membership of GA to represent your ability in an honest manner, not to gain unwarranted favours;
- be professional in and accept responsibility for your actions;
- extend professional courtesy to other coaches, athletes and their parents by keeping them informed in matters relevant to athlete's training programs;
- abide by and respect the regulations governing sport and the organisation and individuals administering those regulations;
- be a role model for your sport and the athletes; and
- respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being within the conduct of your involvement in gymnastics

Exercise a standard of care consistent with your competence and obligations as a coach

- show concern for the health, safety and welfare of athletes and colleagues;
- coach within the limits of your competence as a coach;
- follow GA safety guidelines in respect of the duty of care owed to the athlete;
- provide planned and sequential training programs based on the individual developmental needs of athletes;

- modify the training program for injured athletes based on appropriate medical advice when required; and
- provide a safe environment for participants in training and competition

Provide a quality service to your athletes and to the sport

- maintain or improve your current National Coaching Accreditation scheme accreditation;
- seek continual improvement through performance appraisal and ongoing coach education;
- honour the responsibilities given to a coach by keeping all relevant qualifications up to date; and
- work to ensure athletes' time spent with you is a positive experience

Promote and assist in the development of the coaching profession

- assist others to develop good attitudes, skills and knowledge relating to the sport; and
- promote and assist in the education of other coaches

Put athletes' welfare first; making decisions based on the best interests of your athletes' sporting, education and vocational careers

- acknowledge the individual talents and potential of athletes; and
- maintain a balanced emphasis of sporting involvement within educational and career objectives

Show leadership, and support efforts to remove the abuse of drugs in sport

- abide by the regulations of the relevant national and international sporting and government bodies; and
- respect the health and dignity of athletes to compete on the basis of their abilities; within the rules of the sport of gymnastics

Encourage, by example, the removal of any form of personal abuse or inappropriate discrimination

- refrain from verbal, physical or emotional abuse;
- refrain from any form of sexual harassment towards athletes and colleagues;
- refrain from using the influence of a coaching position to encourage inappropriate intimacy between coach and athlete;
- refrain from any discriminatory practices on the basis of race, religion, ethnic background, or special ability/disability of athletes; and
- be alert to any forms of abuse towards your athletes from other sources whilst they are in your care

Ensure physical contact with athletes is appropriate and necessary for the athletes' skill development

- ensure spotting methods and philosophy are consistent with established gymnastics principles; and
- ensure spotting is used only to facilitate learning or safe performance

ATTACHMENT B3: JUDGES' CODE OF ETHICS

In addition to GA's General Code of Behaviour (Attachment B1), you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by GA, a Member Association or an affiliated club and in your role as an official appointed by GA, a Member Association or an affiliated club:

In order to present a professional image and to judge objectively and accurately, all judges should:

In General:

- understand and abide by the Judge's Oath;
- be fully conversant with the International Gymnastics Federation Code of Points and/or any other published rules and regulations pertaining to the standard of gymnastics being judged;
- actively maintain technical knowledge through ongoing review of the Code of Points, technical publications, videos and gym floor participation;
- attend all pre-competition judge's meetings;
- dress in a tidy fashion benefiting the status and image of a judge;
- be punctual for all official events;
- avoid the use of derogatory language; and
- be prepared to counsel athletes and coaches regarding the athlete's performance after competitions

When travelling with a team:

- report any significant outcomes from the pre-competition meetings to the team coach;
- be available to attend training sessions to advise on judging matters;
- emphasise the spirit of the sport rather than the errors;
- compliment and encourage all competitors;
- be accountable for one's own judging performance; and
- be a current Technical Member of Gymnastics Australia/State Association.

At competitions:

- dress in the standard judge's uniform for competition;
- be prepared for the competition by having all personal judging equipment and accessories readily available and by being conversant with the apparatus and exercises;
- be co-operative with competition organisers, floor managers, announcers and head judges;

- be quick and accurate in determining scores;
- be co-operative in judges' conferences and assist the head judge to arrive at the final score;
- be prepared to justify scores in a judge's conference; and
- be consistent, objective and courteous at all times

ATTACHMENT B4: PARTICIPANT CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

In addition to GA's General Code of Behaviour (Attachment B1), you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by GA, a Member Association or an affiliated club and in your role as a participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of GA, a Member Association or an affiliated club:

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow participants, coaches, officials and spectators.
2. Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
3. Respect the talent, potential and development of fellow participants and competitors.
4. Care for and respect the equipment provided to you as part of your program.
5. Be frank and honest with your coach concerning illness and injury and your ability to train fully within the program requirements.
6. At all times avoid intimate relationships with your coach.
7. Conduct yourself in a professional manner relating to language, temper and punctuality.
8. Maintain high personal behaviour standards at all times.
9. Abide by the rules and respect the decision of the official, making all appeals through the formal process and respecting the final decision.
10. Be honest in your attitude and preparation to training. Work equally hard for yourself and your team.
11. Cooperate with coaches and staff in the development of programs to adequately prepare you for competition at the highest level.

ATTACHMENT B5: ADMINISTRATOR (VOLUNTEER) CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

In addition to GA's General Code of Behaviour (Attachment B1), you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held by or under the auspices of GA, a Member Association or an affiliated club and in your role as an administrator of GA, a Member Association or an affiliated club:

1. Involve people in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making.
2. Give all people equal opportunities to participate.
3. Create pathways for people to participate in sport, not just as an athlete but as a coach, referee, administrator, etc.
4. Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of participants.
5. Provide quality supervision and instruction for junior participants.
6. Remember that people participate for their enjoyment and benefit. Do not overemphasise awards.
7. Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and help improve the standards of coaching and judging.
8. Ensure that all involved in the sport emphasises fair play, not winning at all costs.
9. Remember, you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.
10. Support implementation of all policies of Gymnastics Australia, the State Association and the club.
11. Make it clear that any abuse is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
12. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

ATTACHMENT B6: GA DIRECTORS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATION OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Directors' of Gymnastics Australia (GA) will:

General Conduct

1. at all times conduct themselves with the courtesy and respect of others.

Board members' duties

2. discharge their fiduciary duties in the best interests of the members of GA as a whole.
3. acknowledge that they represent only the Board of GA and do not and cannot represent other or individual constituents including any with which they have been previously been involved and/or associated.
4. conduct themselves independently and free from undue influence at all times.
5. act in good faith at all times.
6. exercise due care and diligence in all matters.
7. meet GA's federal, state and territory statutory obligations.

Conflicts

8. avoid any conflict of interest which may arise when:
 - (a) a board director or his/her immediate family or business stand to gain financially from any business dealings, programs or services provided to GA.
 - (b) a board director offers a professional service to GA.
 - (c) a board director stands to gain professionally or personally from any knowledge derived from his or board position if that knowledge is used for personal or professional advantage.
 - (d) a board director holds a position in another gymnastics organisation which deals with GA.
9. disclose upon election and annually thereafter during their term of appointment all interests in the GA Register of Interests.
10. it shall be incumbent on and a duty of each Director to disclose any conflict or potential conflict as they arise.
11. during the course of a board meeting or any other meeting involving GA interests, seek the consent of the meeting to address the meeting subject to the disclosure and that request will be considered by the Board which may or may not allow the member to speak and may or may not require the member to absent him or herself from the meeting room.

Further obligations

12. not act independently of GA without the consent of the Board.
13. participate fully and constructively in the deliberations and decisions of the Board and communicate openly to achieve GA's goals.

ATTACHMENT B7: PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

As a parent of a participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of GA, a Member Association or an affiliated club, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any such activity or event:

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.
2. Remember that your child participates in sport for their own enjoyment, not yours.
3. Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
4. Never ridicule or yell at your child and other children for making a mistake or losing a competition.
5. Show appreciation for good performance by all participants (including opposing participants).
6. Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with or in the vicinity of persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.
7. Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
8. Do not physically or verbally abuse or harass anyone associated with the sport (participant, coach, judge, etc).
9. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
10. Be a positive role model.
11. Allow fellow parents the respect they deserve in their viewing or involvement in their child's participation.
12. Be aware of the repercussions that any breaches of this code of behaviour may incur.

ATTACHMENT B8: SPECTATOR CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

As a spectator of any activity held by or under the auspices of GA, a Member Association or an affiliated club, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any such activity or event:

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.
2. Focus on the participants' efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
3. Never ridicule or yell at participants for making a mistake or not winning a competition.
4. Show appreciation for good performance by all participants (including opposing participants).
5. Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with or in the vicinity of persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.
6. Respect officials' decisions and teach participants to do likewise.
7. Do not physically or verbally abuse or harass anyone (participant, coach, judge, administrator, etc). Report those that do to the relevant party.
8. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
9. Be a positive role model.
10. Check on the appropriate club or state bodies' policy on photography of participants before taking photos or videos.
11. Allow fellow spectators the respect they deserve in their viewing of the class/event.
12. Be aware of the repercussions that any breaches of this code of behaviour may incur.

PART C: SCREENING / WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK REQUIREMENTS

last update April 2012

Background

Child protection is about keeping children safe from harm/abuse. Child abuse is illegal, and all states and territories have their own systems and laws that cover screening and/or the reporting and investigation of cases of child abuse.

Working with Children Check (WWCC) laws aim to prevent people who pose a risk from working with children as paid employees or volunteers. In New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria, Northern Territory and South Australian laws require individuals involved in areas such as sport and recreation to undertake a check to determine their suitability to work (in a paid or volunteer capacity) with children. This is done by checking certain criminal history and other matters. In some states this also involves reviewing relevant findings from disciplinary proceedings. There are also requirements placed on organisations.

The Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania are currently reviewing their screening laws. New requirements and amendments will be added to this policy as they are introduced. There is no current screening process or formal legislation; however, individual employers or sporting organisations may require police checks at their discretion.

Please be aware that state and territory WWCC requirements may also apply to individuals who visit states with screening laws. For example, if a state association or club takes players U18 into New South Wales for training camps, competition or other activities, those travelling with the teams must comply with NSW law.

The state WWCC requirements apply regardless of our national, state or club Member Protection Policy.

The following attachments provide:

- summary information on state and territory WWCC requirements and where to obtain more information and relevant forms;
- our Member Protection Declaration (for all states/territories except NSW who must complete a Prohibited Employment Declaration provided by the NSW Commission for Children and Young People);
- our screening requirements for people residing in ACT and Tasmania

Attachment C1: EMPLOYMENT SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

for Tasmania only; all other States/Territories refer to C3

This attachment sets out the process we will use to screen the people associated with our organisation who work, coach, supervise or have regular unsupervised contact with children and young people under the age of 18 years.

GA will, and also requires state associations and clubs to:

1. Identify positions that involve working, coaching, supervising or regular unsupervised contact with people under the age of 18 years.
2. Obtain a completed Member Protection Declaration (MPD) (**Attachment C2**) from all people who are identified in the above step and keep it in a secure place.
3. Provide an opportunity for a person to give an explanation if a MPD isn't provided or it reveals that the person doesn't satisfactorily meet any of the clauses in the MPD. We will then make an assessment as to whether the person may be unsuitable to work with people under the age of 18 years. If unsatisfied we will not appoint them to the role/position.
4. Where possible, check a person's referees (verbal or written) about his/her suitability for the role.
5. Ask the people identified in step 1 to sign a consent form for a national police check.
6. Possibly request (or ask the person to request) a national 'Part Exclusion' police check from our relevant police jurisdiction. This check excludes irrelevant records. If the police check indicates a relevant offence, we will provide an opportunity for the person to give an explanation, and then we will make an assessment as to whether the person may pose a risk to or be unsuitable to work with people under the age of 18 years. If unsatisfied we will not appoint them to the role/position.
7. Make an assessment as to whether the person may be unsuitable to work with people under the age of 18 years if the person does not agree to a national police check after explaining why it is a requirement under our policy. If unsatisfied, we will not appoint them.
8. Decide whether to offer the person the position taking into account the result of the police check and any other information the club has available to it. Where it is not practical to complete the police check prior to the person commencing in the position, we will complete the check as soon as possible, and if necessary, act immediately on the outcome.
9. Protect the privacy of any person who is checked and maintain confidentiality of any information obtained through the checking process.
10. Return information collected during screening (such as a completed MPD form, police records and referee reports) to the relevant person if that person is not appointed to the position, or otherwise be destroyed within 28 days of the date of the decision or the expiry of any appeal period, unless within that time the person requests that the documents be returned to them. For appointed persons, information will be kept on file in a secure location.

Attachment C2: MEMBER PROTECTION DECLARATION

GA has a duty of care to all those associated with the sport at the national level and to the individuals and organisations to whom our Member Protection Policy applies. As a requirement of our Member Protection Policy, GA must enquire into the background of those who undertake any work, coaching or regular unsupervised contact with people under the age of 18 years.

I (name) of
..... (address) born/...../.....

sincerely declare:

1. I do not have any criminal charge pending before the courts.
2. I do not have any criminal convictions or findings of guilt for sexual offences, offences related to children or acts of violence.
3. I have not had any disciplinary proceedings brought against me by an employer, sporting organisation or similar body involving child abuse, sexual misconduct or harassment, other forms of harassment or acts of violence.
4. I am not currently serving a sanction for an anti-doping rule violation under an ASADA approved anti-doping policy applicable to me.
5. I will not participate in, facilitate or encourage any practice prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency Code or any other ASADA approved anti-doping policy applicable to me.
6. To my knowledge there is no other matter that GA may consider to constitute a risk to its members, employees, volunteers, athletes or reputation by engaging me.
7. I will notify the CEO of the organisation(s) engaging me immediately upon becoming aware that any of the matters set out in clauses 1 to 6 above has changed.

Declared in the *State/Territory of*
on/...../.....(date) Signature

Parent/Guardian Consent (in respect of a person under the age of 18 years)

I have read and understood the declaration provided by my child. I confirm and warrant that the contents of the declaration provided by my child are true and correct in every particular.

Name:.....

Signature:.....

Date:

Attachment C3: WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHILD PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

Detailed information, including the forms required to complete a Working with Children Check, are available from the relevant agencies in each State/Territory as detailed below. The following information was updated in February 2014. It is subject to change at any time.

1. QUEENSLAND

A person will need a Working with Children Check (“WWC Check”), also known as a **blue card**, if they propose to work in a paid or voluntary capacity or to carry on a business in a child-related area regulated by the *Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000*, for at least:

- Eight consecutive days; or
- Once a week for each week during a period of four weeks; or
- Once a fortnight for each fortnight during a period of eight weeks; or
- Once a month for each month during a period of six months.

Once a person is checked and approved, they are issued with a blue card. Volunteers and paid employees employed in a sporting organisation generally fall under the ‘churches, clubs and associations’ category of regulated employment. Volunteers and paid employees employed in private businesses may fall under the ‘sport and active recreation’ category of regulated employment. The check is a detailed national criminal history check including charges and investigations relating to children.

Police Officers and registered teachers do not need to apply for a blue card when providing child related services that fall outside of their professional duties they should however apply to the Commission for an exemption card.

People such as those with previous convictions involving children are disqualified from applying for or renewing a blue card (refer to website below for details).

As a result of changes and improvements to the blue card system as at the 1st of April, 2011 and 1st July, 2011 more people will be screened and have their criminal histories monitored. State Government employees and volunteers who work with Children will now be screened through the Commission. It will be compulsory for employers/organisations to notify the Commission if they employ someone who already holds a blue card.

A blue card remains current for two years. Existing card holders will be notified by the Queensland Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian before their card expires. It is important to note that Blue Cards issued for applicants received after 1 April 2010 will now be valid for three years, instead of two. Volunteers who are under 18 years of age do not require a Blue Card; however, employees under 18 years of age do require a blue card. In addition to obligations regarding the blue card, **employers** must develop and implement a written child protection risk management strategy and review it each year.

For more information on the blue card, including current forms:

- Visit: www.cypcg.qld.gov.au or
- Call: 1800 113 611

2. NEW SOUTH WALES

The *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* (NSW) provides minimum standards for those who work with children. All organisations within NSW that employ people in child-related employment (in a paid or unpaid capacity) must meet the requirements of the Working With

Children Check (“WWC Check”) Child related employment is defined as work which primarily involves direct unsupervised contact with children. Applicants applying for paid positions need to sign a Background Check Consent Form, and then submit a Background Check Request Form to the approved screening agency for them to conduct the WWC Check. The WWC Check involves two elements:

1. Excluding people with convictions for serious sex and violence crimes against children; and
2. Background checking for preferred applicants for primary child-related employment, ministers of religion and authorised carers

If you need to do the WWC Check, you will need to register with the appropriate Approved Screening Agency. Approved Screening Agencies are the agencies appointed by the Government to carry out the WWCC. As of the 1st of March 2010 the Approved Screening Agency functions at Sport and Recreation were moved to the NSW Commission for Children and Young People.

Sporting organisations are responsible for managing the WWC Check process. Individuals cannot apply for a WWC Check directly. Sporting organisations should register with the **NSW Commission for Children and Young People** providing a contact who will receive the information on the background checks. It is important to note that there are new online WWC Check forms and also clearer online employer guidelines.

Under the relevant NSW Child Protection Legislation all paid and unpaid applicants for child-related employment need to sign a Prohibited Employment Declaration, which confirms that they are not a prohibited person. No one should be employed in child-related employment who refuses to sign the Prohibited Employment Declaration.

Background checks are currently not available for volunteers. Volunteers must certify they are not convicted of serious sex or violence offences that prohibit them from child-related employment. From May 2010, it has been compulsory for self-employed people in child-related employment to hold a certificate which confirms that they are not a prohibited person.

People not eligible for the WWC Checks can apply for a National Police Check through NSW Police (visit:www.police.nsw.gov.au/).

Any relevant employment proceedings should be reported to the Commission for Children and Young People for any paid and unpaid employees. A relevant employment proceeding involves any inappropriate conduct with or in the presence of a child or children.

The Act does not stipulate an age at which WWC Checks become mandatory for employees in child-related employment, so all employees in such settings, including people under 18 years of age, are required to obtain a WWC Check.

A WWC Check is valid for employment in that position within the organisation. Short-term employees (where that person is being employed for periods of less than six months and returning for short periods throughout a 12 month period) only need to be checked **once** every 12 months. People returning from leave into the same child-related employment do not need to be re-checked. Existing employees are only checked if they are recruited to a new position with a different range of child-related contact, within the organisation.

For more information, including the required forms:

- Visit: www.kids.nsw.gov.au
- www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/children/resources.asp or 02 9006 3700
- www.check.kids.nsw.gov.au/; or
- Call: 02 9286 7219

3. WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Working With Children Check (“WWC Check”) is a compulsory and rigorous criminal record check for certain people who carry out ‘child-related work’ in Western Australia (WA). The *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004* (the Act) aims to protect children from harm by providing a high standard of compulsory national criminal record check for people wishing to work in paid or unpaid child-related work or volunteer child-related work in WA.

A person is considered to be working in ‘child-related work’ if their usual duties and work involves, or is likely to involve contact with a child in connection with specified categories of work (see the website below for further details). It includes child-related work carried out by paid employees, volunteers, unpaid people and the self-employed. Parents volunteering in connection with their child’s activity are exempt (although this does not apply to overnight camps); however they should still be required to complete the non-WWC Check screening process. There are other exemptions, for example, volunteers under 18 years of age. Further details about exemptions can be found on the website below. Only those considered to be working in child-related work under the Act may apply.

Applicants will be issued with either:

- An Assessment Notice in the form of a WWC Check Card enabling them to be in all types of child-related work for three years unless there are new offences of concern.
- An Interim Negative Notice, which prohibits them from child-related work until a final decision is made on their application.
- A Negative Notice, which prohibits them from carrying out child-related work (including voluntary work)

It is an offence for employers, volunteer organisations and education providers to engage in child-related work without a WWC Check Card. It is also an offence for employees, volunteers and students to carry out child-related work without doing so. The Act provides a five day grace period in most cases to provide reasonable flexibility and allow for unforeseen circumstances.

Additionally, WWC Checks are only concerned with child-related offences, therefore employers may require that employees or volunteers obtain both a WWC Check and a National Police Check, Information on obtaining a National Police Check can be obtained from the Western Australia Police at www.police.wa.gov.au/.

For more information:

- Visit: www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au/; or
- Call: 1800 883 979 (toll free)

4. VICTORIA

The Working With Children Check (“WWC Check”) creates a mandatory minimum checking standard across Victoria. The *Working with Children Act 2005* requires that some people who work or volunteer in child-related work require a WWC Check. WWC Checks are valid for five years and must be renewed if you intend to continue to undertake ‘child-related work’ after your WWC Check Card expires. Should you require a WWC Check Card you must apply for a WWC Check Card by the 30th of June 2011.

The check involves a national police records check and a review of relevant findings from prescribed professional disciplinary bodies (currently only the Victorian Institute of Teaching). There is an exemption for volunteers whose own children are involved in the particular activity; however they should still be required to complete the screening process.

A person who has no criminal or professional disciplinary history will be granted an *Assessment Notice*. This notice will entitle the person to undertake child-related work in Victoria and is valid for five years (unless revoked). As of the 1st of December, 2010 the *Assessment Notice* became the WWC Check Card and not the A4-Style Assessment Notice. Cardholders can now show employers and organisations who employ them in 'child-related work', the card itself, as legal proof that they have passed the Check. A person deemed unsuitable to work or volunteer with children will be given a *negative notice* and cannot work in child-related work in Victoria.

Card holders do not need to apply for a new WWC Check Card when they change their employer or volunteer organisation, unless they are moving from volunteer status to paid work status.

People under 18 years of age do not require a WWC Check Card.

Police Checks can also be obtained via Victoria Police at <http://www.police.vic.gov.au/>

For more information:

- Visit: www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren; or
- Call: 1300 652 879

5. SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In South Australia the requirement to conduct criminal history assessments for people working with children is being phased-in over three years.

For recreation and sporting organisations this requirement commences from 1 January 2012 and is to be completed by 31 December 2013.

The obligation to conduct the Criminal History Assessment rests with the organisation providing the service. Organisations who provide services wholly or partly for children in South Australia therefore must comply with this requirement, so must include these requirements in their MPP documentation

The organisation may conduct a criminal history assessment themselves or apply to a third party (such as the state sporting body for an assessment and letter of clearance).

Assessments required for prescribed positions

All staff contractors and volunteers who occupy a prescribed position (as set out under section 8B (8) of the South Australian *Children's Protection Act 1993*) are required to undergo a criminal history assessment once every three years unless an exemption applies. (see below)

Criminal history assessments are also required prior to the appointment of new staff contractors or volunteers to prescribed positions.

This includes all people who regularly work with or around children in an unsupervised capacity or have access to children's records.

Procedure for conducting criminal history assessments

Note: The Children's Protection Act 1993 enables organisations to decide the manner in which they will conduct criminal history assessments. Please choose the option below that reflects the method of assessment that your organisation has adopted.

Option 1

A National Police Check (NPC) from South Australia Police will be required for all persons taking on a role in a prescribed position prior to their appointment and then at three yearly intervals or as requested by the board.

For many volunteers the cost for this application will be covered under the Volunteer Organisation Authorisation number (VOAN) through the governing body/State Sporting Organisation.

South Australia Police require the explicit written consent of the applicant prior to the release of criminal history information. The NPC application form is available from http://www.police.sa.gov.au/sapol/services/information_requests/national_police_certificate.jsp

On receipt of the NPC the applicant must present the letter for viewing and recording to the organisation.

Where a person has no disclosable criminal history, the assessment is successfully completed and no further action in respect to an assessment is required.

Where an individual does have a criminal history, the organisation must assess this information in accordance with Standard 5 of the ***Standards for dealing with information obtained about the criminal history of employees and volunteers who work with children.*** <http://www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/pub/Default.aspx?tabid=281>

Each assessment is conducted on its individual merits and with consideration to the inherent requirements of the position. As required by ***the Standards for dealing with information obtained about the criminal history of employees and volunteers who work with children,*** principles of procedural fairness and natural justice are applied throughout the decision-making process and the individual is provided an opportunity to confirm or dispute the information contained within the report and to provide contextual information for consideration during the assessment process.

Criminal history information will not be retained once a decision has been made regarding the person's suitability to work with children. No criminal history information will be retained beyond three months.

In accordance with its legal requirements, the organisation will retain the following information regarding its decision:

- That a criminal history report was obtained
- How the criminal history information affected decision making processes
- Statutory declarations (where applicable)

The organisation may obtain a further criminal history assessment for a staff member, contractor or volunteer at any time that they believe it necessary or desirable for the purpose of maintaining a child safe environment.

New applicants for employment, membership and volunteer positions will be provided with the opportunity to confirm or dispute the information contained within the National Police Certificate report and to provide contextual information if they wish before the assessment is conducted.

The organisation will communicate to the applicant the decision not to employ or engage them or to accept their application for membership. They will not be provided with the reasons for this decision.

There will be no appeal to this decision.

Option 2

A current letter of clearance from the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DSCI) Screening Unit is a requirement for all persons taking on a role in a prescribed position prior to their appointment and then at three yearly intervals.

The cost of obtaining a letter of clearance will be negotiated between the organisation, the club or applicant.

The organisation may obtain a further criminal history assessment for an employee at any time that the organisation believes it necessary or desirable for the purpose of maintaining a child safe environment.

The informed written consent of the applicant or employee is required prior to conducting a criminal history assessment. The Screening Unit's informed consent form is available from <http://www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/pub/Default.aspx?tabid=934>

- Information relating to a persons criminal history and the assessment process is managed securely and confidentially and in accordance with the ***Standards for dealing with information obtained about the criminal history of employees and volunteers who work with children*** issued by the Chief Executive, Department for Families and Communities. <http://www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/pub/Default.aspx?tabid=281>

Other evidence (optional)

Where appropriate, the organisation may utilise a number of forms of evidence (obtained within the last three years) to assess a person's suitability to work with children. This includes:

- A National Police Certificate that does not expressly state that it cannot be used as a clearance to work with children
- A letter of clearance to work with children from the Department for Families and Communities Screening Unit
- A valid and current interstate working with children check.

Acceptance of other forms of evidence is at the discretion of the [NSO/organisation] and is subject to the person completing a 100-point check to confirm the true identity of the applicant.

This organisation may also at its discretion seek a statutory declaration for any *employee(s)* or *volunteer(s)* who have been citizens or permanent residents of another country other than Australia since turning 18 years of age.

Exemptions from the requirement to conduct criminal history assessments

In accordance with guidelines the organisation has agreed to exempt the following persons from the requirement to undertake a criminal history assessment, unless that person is also involved in a function or event conducted by the organisation its affiliated associations or clubs which involves the care of children in overnight accommodation.

- A person volunteering in an activity in which their child ordinarily participates;
- A person working or volunteering for a short-term event or activity of less than 10 days duration or for no more than 1 day in any month;
- A person occupying a position in which all work involving children is undertaken in the physical presence of the child's parents or guardians and in which there is ordinarily no physical contact with the children;

- A person who undertakes, or a position that only involves, work that is primarily provided to adults or the community generally and is not provided to any child on an individual basis;
- An organisation that provides equipment, food or venues for children's parties or events but does not provide any other services to children;
- A person who has regular contact with a child as part of an employment relationship with that child (such as a person working alongside a child or supervising an employee who is a child);

For more information, visit:

- <http://www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/pub/Default.aspx?tabid=281>
- <http://www.recsport.sa.gov.au>

6. **NORTHERN TERRITORY**

The *Care and Protection of Children Act 2007* (NT) highlights a number of initiatives the Northern Territory Government has designed to help keep children safe and prevent harm and exploitation of children, amongst other things.

It is mandatory for employees and volunteers aged 15 years and over who have contact or potential contact with children to hold a Working With Children Clearance Notice ("WWC Clearance Notice"). WWC Clearance Notices are designed to keep children safe by preventing those who pose a risk to the safety of children from working with them, in either paid or volunteer work. People who receive a WWC Clearance Notice will receive an Ochre Card which acts as proof that you hold a WWC Clearance Notice.

The Children Clearance Screening has three components:

1. A National Police Records Check;
2. Employment History; and
3. Other material

It is the responsibility of the person who wants to work or volunteer with children to apply for the WWC Clearance Notice and ensure that it remains valid.

Penalties will apply to people who gain employment in "child related" work without a WWC Clearance Notice.

Individual organisations may also have their own policies that require people working with children and young people to undergo a Police Check. The Northern Territory Police Department provides information on obtaining Police Checks at www.pfes.nt.gov.au.

For more information:

- Visit: <http://www.workingwithchildren.nt.gov.au>; or
- Call: 1800 SAFE NT (1800 723 368)

7. **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

Contact the Office of Regulatory Services:

- Visit: www.ors.act.gov.au/community/working_with_vulnerable_people
- Call: (02) 6207 3000

8. TASMANIA

There is no formal legislation or relevant screening program in Tasmania. Individual employers may require police checks at their discretion.

A screening program does exist for persons engaged in the childcare industry. It is a requirement of the Department of Education that safety screening is undertaken for the following:

- Child care staff;
- Home base child carers; and
- Volunteers and students, including those under 18 years of age.

Police Checks can be obtained from the Tasmanian Police Department at www.police.tas.gov.au.

For more information:

- Visit: www.aifs.gov.au; and
- www.education.tas.gov.au

PART D: COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES

To ensure due process, consistency and that the principles of natural justice are followed in all aspects of handling or conducting complaints, allegations, investigations, appeals and disciplinary measures, GA will follow the procedures set out below.

Attachment D1: COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

All complaints will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to another person without the complainant's consent except if law requires disclosure or if disclosure is necessary to effectively deal with the complaint.

Individuals and organisations may also pursue their complaint externally under anti-discrimination, child protection or other relevant legislation.

If you wish to remain anonymous, GA may have difficulty assisting you to resolve your complaint. Procedural fairness (natural justice) means that GA is required to provide the person/people you have complained about with full details of the complaint so they have a fair chance to respond.

INFORMAL APPROACHES

Step 1: Talk with the other person (where this is reasonable and appropriate)

In the first instance, you (the Complainant) should try to sort out the problem with the person or people involved (respondent) if you feel able to do so.

Step 2: Contact a Member Protection Information Officer

Talk with one of our Member Protection Information Officers (MPIOs) if:

- the first step is not possible/reasonable;
- you are not sure how to handle the problem by yourself;
- you want to talk confidentially about the problem with someone and obtain more information about what you can do; or
- the problem continues after you tried to approach the person or people involved.

The MPIO will:

- take confidential notes about your complaint;
- try to find out the facts of the problem;
- ask what outcome/how you want the problem resolved and if you need support;
- provide possible options for you to resolve the problem;
- act as a support person if you so wish;
- refer you to an appropriate person (e.g. Mediator) to help you resolve the problem, if necessary;
- inform the relevant government authorities and/or police if required by law to do so;
- maintain confidentiality.

Step 3: Outcomes from initial contact

After talking with the MPIO, you may decide:

- there is no problem;
- the problem is minor and you do not wish to take the matter forward;
- to try and work out your own resolution (with or without a support person such as a MPIO); or
- to seek a mediated resolution with the help of a third person (such as a mediator); or
- to seek a formal approach.

FORMAL APPROACHES

Step 4: Making a Formal complaint

If your complaint is not resolved or informal approaches are not appropriate or possible, you may:

- make a formal complaint in writing to the MPIO; or
- approach a relevant external agency such as an anti-discrimination commission, for advice.

On receiving a formal complaint and based on the material you have provided, the MPIO will decide whether:

- they are the most appropriate person to receive and handle the complaint;
- the nature and seriousness of the complaint warrants a formal resolution procedure;
- to appoint a person to **investigate** (gather more information on) the complaint;
- to refer the complaint to mediation;
- to refer the complaint to the GA Discipline Committee;
- to refer the matter to the police or other appropriate authority; and/or
- to implement any interim arrangements that will apply until the complaint process set out in these Procedures is completed.

In making the decision(s) outlined above, the MPIO will take into account:

- whether they have had any personal involvement in the circumstances which means that someone else should handle the complaint;
- your wishes, and the wishes of the respondent, regarding the manner in which the complaint should be handled;
- the relationship between you and the respondent (for example an actual or perceived power imbalance between you and the respondent);
- whether the facts of the complaint are in dispute; and
- the urgency of the complaint, including the possibility that you will be subject to further unacceptable behaviour while the complaint process is underway.

If the MPIO is the appropriate person to handle the complaint they will, to the extent that these steps are necessary:

- put the information they've received from you to the person/people you're complaining about and ask them to provide their side of the story;
- decide if they have enough information to determine whether the matter alleged in your complaint did or didn't happen; and/or
- determine what, if any, further action to take. This action may include disciplinary action in accordance with this policy.

Step 5: Investigation of the complaint

- A person appointed under Step 4 (or other authorised person) will conduct an investigation and provide a written report to the GA Discipline Committee who will determine what further action to take;
- If the complaint is referred to mediation, it will be conducted in accordance with Attachment D2 or as otherwise agreed by you and the respondent and the mediation provider;
- If the complaint is referred to GA Discipline Committee, the hearing will be conducted in accordance with Attachment D5.
- If the complaint is referred to the police or other appropriate authority, GA will use its best endeavours to provide all reasonable assistance required by the police or other authority.
- It must be made clear to all parties that the investigator is not seeking to resolve the matter, nor to decide whether any breach of this Policy has occurred, nor to impose any penalty. Any decision about Policy breach must be referred to an independent tribunal, and wherever possible, mediations should be conducted by an independent mediator.

In appropriate circumstances (and as determined solely at the discretion of the CEO) the Complainant may be liable for any costs or disbursements relating to the complaint process set out in this Policy (e.g. investigation and/or mediation and/or hearings).

Step 6: Reconsideration of initial outcome/investigation or appeal

If, under the formal complaint process, mediation is unsuccessful, you may request that the CEO reconsider the complaint in accordance with **Step 3**.

You or the respondent(s) may be entitled to appeal. The grounds and process for appeals under this Policy are set out in Attachment D5.

Step 7: Documenting the resolution

GA will document the complaint, the process and the outcome. This document will be stored in a confidential and secure place. If the complaint was dealt with at a state/district level, the information will be stored in the state association office. If the matter is of a serious nature, or if the matter was escalated to and/or dealt with at the national level, the original document will be stored at the national office with a copy stored at the state office.

EXTERNAL APPROACHES

There are a range of other options available depending on the nature of your complaint. If you feel that you have been harassed or discriminated against, you can seek advice from your State or Territory anti-discrimination commission without being obliged to make a formal complaint. If the commission advises you that the problem appears to be harassment within its jurisdiction, you may lodge a formal complaint with the commission.

Once a complaint is received by an anti-discrimination commission, it will investigate. If it appears that unlawful harassment or discrimination has occurred, the commission will conciliate the complaint confidentially. If this fails, or is inappropriate, the complaint may go to a formal hearing where a finding will be made. The tribunal will decide upon what action, if any, will be taken. This could include financial compensation for such things as distress, lost earnings or medical and counselling expenses incurred.

If you do lodge a complaint under anti-discrimination law, you may use an appropriate person (e.g. an MPIO) as a support person throughout the process. It is also common to have a legal representative, particularly at the hearing stage of a complaint.

You could also approach another external agency such as the police.

ATTACHMENT D2: MEDIATION

Mediation is a process during which people in conflict are helped to communicate with each other to identify the areas of dispute and to make decisions about resolving it. The procedure for mediation that will be followed by GA is in accordance with the GA Grievance By-Law.

The GA Grievance By-Law 3 has been established by the GA Board under clause 11.2(b) of the GA Constitution and was approved on 29 April 2007. It is binding on GA and all members of GA.

A copy of this By-Law is attached to the Member Protection Policy.

ATTACHMENT D3: INVESTIGATION PROCESS

If an investigation needs to be conducted to gather more information the following steps will be followed:

1. We will provide a written brief to the investigator clarifying terms of engagement and roles and responsibilities. The investigator will:
 - 1.1 Interview the complainant and record the interview in writing.
 - 1.2 Convey full details of the complaint to the respondent (s) so that they can respond.
 - 1.3 Interview the respondent to allow them to answer the complaint, and record the interview in writing.
 - 1.4 Obtain statements from witnesses and other relevant evidence to assist in a determination, if there is a dispute over the facts
 - 1.5 Make a finding as to whether the complaint is:
 - substantiated (there is sufficient evidence to support the complaint);
 - inconclusive (there is insufficient evidence either way);
 - unsubstantiated (there is sufficient evidence to show that the complaint is unfounded); and/or
 - mischievous, vexatious or knowingly untrue.
 - 1.6 Provide a report to the GA Discipline Committee documenting the complaint, investigation process, evidence, finding and, if requested, recommendations.
2. We will provide a report to the complainant and the respondent(s) documenting the complaint, the investigation process and summarising key points that are substantiated, inconclusive, unsubstantiated and/or mischievous.
3. The complainant and the respondent(s) will be entitled to support throughout this process from their chosen support person/adviser (e.g. MPIO or other person).
4. The complainant and the respondent(s) may have the right to appeal against any decision arrived at based on the investigation. Information on our appeals process is in Attachment D5.

ATTACHMENT D4: HEARINGS & APPEALS TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

The GA Discipline and Appeals By-Law will be followed for hearings and appeals in relation to national member protection related complaints. The GA Discipline and Appeals By-Law has been established by the GA Board under Clause 11.2(b) of the GA Constitution and was approved on 29 April 2007. It is binding on GA and all members of GA.

A copy of this By-Law is available on the GA website.

PART E: REPORTING DOCUMENTS

The following information was updated in November 2011. It is subject to change at any time.

QUEENSLAND

If you have a reason to suspect a child in Queensland is experiencing harm, or is at risk of experiencing harm, you need to contact Child Safety Services:

<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety/about-us/contact-us> :

- **During normal business hours** - contact the Regional Intake Service.
<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety/about-us/contact-us/child-safety-service-centres/regional-intake-services>
- **After hours and on weekends** - contact the Child Safety After Hours Service Centre on **1800 177 135** or (07) 3235 9999. The service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If you believe a child is in immediate danger or in a life-threatening situation, contact the Queensland Police Service immediately by dialling **000**.

Queensland Police Service has a number of child protection and investigation units across Queensland. To contact the Queensland Police Service, contact the Police District Communication Centre nearest you.

(<http://www.police.qld.gov.au/forms/contact.asp#districtComms>).

If you aren't sure who to call, or for assistance to locate your nearest child safety service centre, contact Child Safety Services' Enquiries Unit on **1800 811 810**. Child safety service centres have professionally trained child protection staff who are skilled in dealing with information about harm or risk of harm to children.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Anyone who suspects, on reasonable grounds, that a child or young person is at risk of being neglected or physically, sexually or emotionally abused, should report it to Community Services.

Reasonable grounds is the standard that reporters must use in deciding whether or not to report to Community Services.

It does not mean that reporters are required to confirm their suspicions or provide solid proof before making a report. A useful rule of thumb is to consider whether another person, when faced with similar information, would also draw the same conclusion.

You can make a report by phoning the **Child Protection Helpline on 132 111** (TTY 1800 212 936) for the cost of a local call, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

If you are concerned about a child's wellbeing, contact the Department for Child Protection's district office closest to where the child lives or the Crisis Care Unit after hours.

(<http://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/Organisation/ContactUs/Pages/ContactUs.aspx>)

If you believe a child is in immediate danger or in a life-threatening situation, contact the Western Australia Police immediately by dialling **000**.

If you make a report or disclose relevant information to the Department for Child Protection, there is legislative protection for the notifier. These are:

- Protection of identity - with some exceptions, your identity must not be disclosed without your consent. For further information, refer to section 240 of the *Children and Community Services Act 2004*
- Legal protection – you are not subject to legal liability under State law providing the information is provided in good faith.
- Professional protection – authorised disclosure of information cannot be held to constitute unprofessional conduct or a breach of professional ethics. As a result you cannot be disciplined by your professional body or incur any formal professional negative consequences at your workplace.

When you contact the Department, the Duty Officer will gather and record information that you provide and decide how best to respond. The type of information that the officer will gather includes:

- details about the child/young person and family
- the reasons you are concerned
- the immediate risk to the child
- whether or not the child or family has support
- what may need to happen to make the child safe
- your contact details, so that the officer can call you to obtain further information if required or to provide feedback.

You do not need to have all the details about the child or family when you contact the Department for Child Protection

For more information: <http://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/ChildProtection/>

VICTORIA

Some professionals such as doctors, nurses, police and school teachers are legally obliged to report suspected child abuse. In addition, any person who believes on reasonable grounds that a child needs protection can make a report to the Victorian Child Protection Service. It is the Child Protection worker's job to assess and, where necessary, further investigate if a child or young person is at risk of harm.

For more information: <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/>

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Staff contractors and volunteers who work with children are mandated notifiers and have a legal obligation to report any suspicion of child abuse and/or neglect that they may form in the course of their employment or volunteer activity based on reasonable grounds. This obligation extends to persons holding a management position whose duties include direct responsibility for, or direct supervision of the provision of services to children.

Reports are made to the CHILD ABUSE HELP LINE 13 14 78

A reasonable suspicion must be based on facts, for example:

- A disclosure of abuse by a child
- Professional judgement, based on the notifier's experience and observations

The organisation has an obligation to make each affected person aware of this legal obligation.

There is no obligation that recreation or sporting organisations require mandated reporters to undertake formal external training in the recognition of child abuse.

The law also stipulates that no person shall threaten or intimidate, or cause damage, loss or disadvantage to another person because that person has made a notification or proposes to make a notification pursuant to the *Children's Protection Act 1993*.

For more information: www.families.sa.gov.au/childsafef.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

In the Northern Territory any person who believes that a child is being, or has been, abused or neglected is required by law to report their concerns.

Reports should be made to the 24 hour Centralised Intake Service by using the free-call phone number **1800 700 250**.

Remember, you do not need to prove abuse or neglect, you need only report your concerns. The Care and Protection of Children Act provides legal protection against civil or criminal liability for people who make reports in good faith.

The Act also makes it clear that making a report does not breach any requirements of confidentiality or professional ethics.

For more information: http://www.childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au/Child_Protection/

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Care and Protection services is responsible for facilitating coordination across government for the care and protection of children and young people. Care and Protection services and an After Hours service, provide a continuum of service delivery to children and young people considered 'at risk' of serious harm.

Care and Protection Services is authorised to collect personal information under the *Children and Young People Act 2008* to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the ACT. The information collected may be disclosed to government and non government agencies (including but not limited to the Australian Federal Police, ACT Children's Court, the Family Court, Health and Education Directorates and community organisations) to assist in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Information identifying a person making a child protection report is treated with the highest confidentiality and will not be disclosed except where a Court orders the disclosure.

For more information: http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/ocyfs/services/care_and_protection

TASMANIA

Most professionals who provide services to children and families in Tasmania are 'mandatory reporters' of child abuse, under the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997. This includes, but is not limited to, the following groups:

- DHHS employees
- Child Care providers
- Dentists, dental therapists or dental hygienists
- Police officers and probation officers
- Psychologists
- Registered medical practitioners and nurses
- School principals and teachers
- Volunteers and employees of any organisation that provides health, welfare, education, care or residential services and which receives government funding.

To make an urgent notification about abuse or neglect to Child Protection Services, please ring 1300 737 639 at any time.

Child Protection Services prefer to talk to a notifier in order to aid them in gathering information. However, if it is after hours and you are a mandatory reporter, an online notification can also be made.

For more information: http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/child_protection_services

Attachment E2: CONFIDENTIAL RECORD OF FORMAL COMPLAINT

Complainant's Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18	Date Formal Complaint Received: / /
Complainant's contact details	Phone: Email:	
Complainant's Role/status	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Official	
Name of person complained about (respondent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18	
Respondent's Role/status	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Official	
Location/event of alleged issue		
Description of alleged issue		
Nature of complaint (category/basis/grounds) Can tick more than one box	<input type="checkbox"/> Harassment or <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual/sexist <input type="checkbox"/> Selection dispute <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching methods <input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality <input type="checkbox"/> Personality clash <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Race <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying <input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Religion <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Victimisation <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Child Abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Unfair decision <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Methods (if any) of attempted informal resolution		

Formal resolution procedures followed (outline)	
If investigated: Finding -	
If went to hearing tribunal: Decision - Action recommended -	
If mediated: Date of mediation - Were both parties present - Terms of Agreement - Any other action taken -	
If went to appeals tribunal: Decision Action recommended	
Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 3 months to resolve <input type="checkbox"/> Between 3 – 8 months to resolve <input type="checkbox"/> More than 8 months to resolve
Completed by	Name: Position: Signature: / /
Signed by:	Complainant: Respondent:

This record and any notes must be kept in a confidential place. If the complaint is of a serious nature, or is escalated to and/or dealt with at the national level, the original must be forwarded to the national body and a copy kept at the club/state/district level (whatever level the complaint was made).

Attachment E3: PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

If you believe a child is in immediate danger or a life-threatening situation, contact the Police immediately on 000.

Fact sheets on reporting allegations of child abuse in different states and territories are available at www.playbytherules.net.au.

We will treat any allegation of child abuse or neglect promptly, seriously and with a high degree of sensitivity.

All people working with *[insert name of NSO]* in a paid or unpaid capacity have a duty to report any concerns to the appropriate authorities, following the steps outlined below.

Step 1: Receive the allegation

If a child or young person raises with you an allegation of child abuse or neglect that relates to them or to another child, it is important that you listen, stay calm and be supportive.

Do	Don't
Make sure you are clear about what the child has told you	Do not challenge or undermine the child
Reassure the child that what has occurred is not his or her fault	Do not seek detailed information, ask leading questions or offer an opinion.
Explain that other people may need to be told in order to stop what is happening.	Do not discuss the details with any person other than those detailed in these procedures.
Promptly and accurately record the discussion in writing.	Do not contact the alleged offender.

Step 2: Report the allegation

- Immediately report any allegation of child abuse or neglect, or any situation involving a child at risk of harm, to the police and/or the relevant child protection agency. You may need to make a report to both.
- Contact the relevant child protection agency or police for advice if there is **any** doubt about whether the allegation should be reported.
- If the allegation involves a person to whom this policy applies, then also report the allegation to the *[insert CEO or other official]* of *[insert name of NSO]* so that he or she can manage the situation.

Step 3: Protect the child and manage the situation

- The *[insert CEO or other official]* will assess the immediate risks to the child and take interim steps to ensure the child's safety and the safety of any other children. This may include redeploying the alleged offender to a position where there is no unsupervised contact with children, supervising the alleged offender or removing/suspending him or her until any investigations have been concluded. Legal advice should be sought before any interim steps are made if the person is in paid employment with *[insert name of NSO]*.
- The *[insert CEO or other official]* will consider what services may be most appropriate to support the child and his or her parent/s.
- The *[insert CEO or other official]* will consider what support services may be appropriate for the alleged offender.
- The *[insert CEO or other official]* will put in place measures to protect the child and the alleged offender from possible victimisation and gossip.

Step 4: Take internal action

- Up to three different investigations could be undertaken to examine allegations that are made against a person to whom this policy applies, including:
 - a criminal investigation (conducted by the police)
 - a child protection investigation (conducted by the relevant child protection agency)
 - a disciplinary or misconduct inquiry/investigation (conducted by *[insert name of NSO]*).
- Regardless of the findings of the police and/or child protection agency investigations, *[insert name of NSO]* will assess the allegations to decide whether the alleged offender should return to his or her position, be dismissed, be banned or face any other disciplinary action.
- *[Insert CEO, other designated official, tribunal etc.]* of *[insert name of NSO]* will consider all information relevant to the matter – including any findings made by the police, the child protection authority and/or court – and then set out a finding, recommend actions and the rationale for those actions.
- If disciplinary action is recommended, we will follow the procedures set out in *[Clause 9]* of our Member Protection Policy.
- We will provide the relevant government agency with a report of any disciplinary action we take, where this is required.

Contact details for advice or to report an allegation of child abuse

Australian Capital Territory	
ACT Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.afp.gov.au	Office for Children, Youth and Family Services www.dhcs.act.gov.au/ocyfs/services/care_and_protection Ph: 1300 556 729
New South Wales	
New South Wales Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.police.nsw.gov.au	Department of Community Services www.community.nsw.gov.au Ph: 132 111
Northern Territory	
Northern Territory Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.pfes.nt.gov.au	Department of Children and Families www.childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au Ph: 1800 700 250
Queensland	
Queensland Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.police.qld.gov.au	Department of Communities www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety Ph: 1800 811 810
South Australia	
South Australia Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.sapolice.sa.gov.au	Department for Communities and Social Inclusion www.dcsi.sa.gov.au Ph: 131 478
Tasmania	
Tasmania Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.police.tas.gov.au	Department of Health and Human Services www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children Ph: 1300 737 639
Victoria	
Victoria Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: (03) 9247 6666 www.police.vic.gov.au	Department of Human Services www.dhs.vic.gov.au Ph: 131 278
Western Australia	
Western Australia Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.police.wa.gov.au	Department for Child Protection www.dcp.wa.gov.au Ph: (08) 9222 2555 or 1800 622 258

Attachment E4: CONFIDENTIAL RECORD OF CHILD ABUSE ALLEGATION

Before completing, ensure the procedures outlined in attachment D4 have been followed and advice has been sought from the relevant government agency and/or police.

Complainant's Name (if other than the child)		Date Formal Complaint Received: / /
Role/status in sport		
Child's name		Age:
Child's address		
Person's reason for suspecting abuse (e.g. observation, injury, disclosure)		
Name of person complained about		
Role/status in sport	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Official	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Witnesses (if more than 3 witnesses, attach details to this form)	Name (1): Contact details: Name (2): Contact details: Name (3): Contact details:	
Interim action (if any) taken (to ensure child's safety and/or to support needs of person complained about)		
Police contacted	Who: When: Advice provided:	

Government agency contacted	Who: When: Advice provided:
CEO contacted	Who: When:
Police and/or government agency investigation	Finding:
Internal investigation (if any)	Finding:
Action taken	
Completed by	Name: Position: Signature: / /
Signed by	Complainant (if not a child)

This record and any notes must be kept in a confidential place and provided to the relevant authorities (police and government) should they require them.