



PORT NOARLUNGA FOOTBALL & SPORTS CLUB

[MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY]

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1 INTRODUCTION

Our Mission as a Football and Sports Club is to provide opportunities for all participants to play at the highest level possible within an environment that embraces strong community values like respect, integrity and co-operation.

2 PURPOSE OF OUR POLICY

The main objective of our Member Protection Policy (policy) is to maintain responsible behaviour and ethical and informed decision-making by participants in this club. This policy outlines our commitment to a person's right to be treated with respect and dignity, and to be safe and protected from abuse. Our policy informs everyone involved in our club of their legal and ethical rights and responsibilities and the standards of behaviour that are required. It also covers the care and protection of children participating in our club's activities.

3 WHO OUR POLICY APPLIES TO

Our policy applies to everyone involved in the club including committee members, administrators, coaches, officials (umpires/referees/judges), players, parents and spectators.

4 EXTENT OF OUR POLICY

Our policy covers unfair decisions (e.g., team selection), breaches of our codes of behaviour and inappropriate behaviour that occurs at practice, at meetings, in the club rooms, at social events organised or sanctioned by the club (or our district, regional, state or national body), on away and overnight trips, and any behaviour that brings or is likely to bring our club or sport into disrepute. It also covers behaviour where there is suspicion of harm towards a child or young person.

5 CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

We will:

- make any necessary amendments to our Constitution, rules or other policies to enable this policy to be enforceable
- implement and comply with our policy
- promote our policy to everyone involved in our club
- promote and model appropriate standards of behaviour at all times
- respond to breaches or complaints made under our policy promptly, fairly, and

confidentially

- review this policy every 12–18 months
- seek advice from, and if necessary or appropriate, refer serious issues to our *association*.

Serious issues include unlawful behaviour that involves or could lead to significant harm and includes criminal behaviour (e.g., physical assault, sexual assault, child abuse) and any other issues that our state or national body request to be referred to them (e.g., conflict of interest)



6 INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Everyone associated with our club must:

- comply with the standards of behaviour outlined in our policy
- treat others with respect
- always place the safety and welfare of children above other considerations
- be responsible and accountable for their behaviour
- follow the guidelines 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.

7 PROTECTION OF CHILDREN – *Refer Clubs Child Safe Policy*

7.1 Child protection

Child abuse involves conduct which puts children at risk of harm and takes a number of different forms, including:

- physical abuse (e.g., deliberately hurting [hitting, punching], providing alcohol or drugs, or training that exceeds child's development or maturity)
- sexual abuse (e.g., sexual acts or threats, inappropriate touching or conversations)
- emotional abuse (e.g., ill-treating by threats, humiliation or intimidation)
- neglect (e.g., not providing child with basic necessities [food, drink, clothing], failing to protect a child from foreseeable risk of harm or injury).

Abuse is usually against the law. We will take measures to protect children involved in our club from harm. We will do this by:

- responding to all reports of abuse promptly, seriously and confidentially
- complying with state/territory child protection laws and Working with Children Check requirements (see attachment 2)
- carefully selecting and screening people over the age of 16 years who will have regular supervisory contact with children
- promoting and enforcing our codes of behaviour, particularly for roles associated with children

- making information about child protection available, particularly for roles associated with children
- adopting practices that provide the maximum opportunity for a child-safe environment.

Anyone who reasonably suspects that a child has been or is being abused must report their concerns to the police or relevant government agency. Advise the Club President that you have reported your concerns.



7.2 Supervision

Members under the age of 12 must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. Our club will provide a level of supervision adequate and relative to the members' age, maturity, capabilities, level of experience, nature of activity and nature of venue. If a member finds a member under the age of 12 is unsupervised, they should assume responsibility for the member's safety until the parent/guardian or supervisor can be found.

Parents must turn up on time to collect their child for reasons of courtesy and safety. If it appears a member will be left alone at the end of a training session with just one child, they will ask another member to stay until the child is collected.

[7.3 Transportation

Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting their children to and from club activities (e.g., practice and games). Where our club makes arrangements for the transportation of children (e.g., for away or overnight trips), we will conduct a risk assessment that includes ensuring vehicles are adequately insured, the driver has a current and appropriate licence for the vehicle being used, and appropriate safety measures are available (e.g., fitted working seatbelts.)

[7.4 Taking images of children

Images of children can be used inappropriately or illegally. Our club requires that members, 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. Our club also requires the privacy of others to be respected and disallows the use of camera phones, videos and cameras inside changing areas, showers and toilets.

If the club 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. We will not display personal information such as residential address, email address or telephone numbers without gaining consent from the parent/guardian. We will not display information about hobbies, likes/dislikes, school, etc., as this information can be used as grooming tools by paedophiles or other persons. We 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.

8 ANTI-HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION AND BULLYING

Our club 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 phones and computers. Some forms of harassment, discrimination and bullying are against the law and are based on particular characteristics such as age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, political or religious beliefs, race and marital status.

Our club takes all claims of harassment, discrimination, bullying and cyber bullying seriously. We encourage anyone who believes they have been harassed, discriminated against or bullied to raise the issue with the club (see '10. Responding to complaints').

9. INCLUSIVE PRACTICES

Our club is welcoming and we will seek to include members from all areas of our community.

9.1 People with disability

Where possible we will include people with disability in our teams and club. We will make reasonable adaptations (e.g., modifications to equipment and rules) to enable participation.

9. 2 People from diverse cultures

We will support and respect people from diverse cultures and religions to participate in our club and where possible will accommodate requests for flexibility (e.g., modifications to uniforms).

9.3 Sexual and gender identity

All people, regardless of their sexuality, are welcome at our club. We strive to provide a safe environment for participation and will take action over any homophobic behaviour.

9.4 Pregnancy

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. We recommend that pregnant women consult their medical advisers, make themselves aware of the facts about pregnancy in sport, and ensure that they make informed decisions about participation.

9.5 Girls playing in boys teams

If there is not a separate sex competition, our club will support girls playing in boys teams up until the age of 12 years (when federal sex discrimination law says if differences in strength, stamina and physique are relevant, then single-sex competition is required). After this age our club will consider each request on an individual basis including looking at the nature of our sport and other opportunities to compete.]

Policy last reviewed – 6-3-2017



RELATED DOCUMENTS

Responding to Complaints Procedure

Complaint Reporting Form

Volunteer Induction Policy

Volunteer Induction Checklist

Volunteer Application Form

Code of Behavior

Volunteer Risk Management Policy

Child Safe Policy

Racial & Religious tolerance Policy

Disability Discrimination Action Plan

Alcohol Policy

Smoke Free policy and Non-prescribed and Illicit Substances
Statement

Hot Weather Policy