



**ADELAIDE
UNIVERSITY
SPORT**

Child Safe Environment Policy

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Background

Adelaide University Sport and Fitness (AUSF) is committed to providing child safe environments for sport and recreation according to the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 and the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016.

AUSF is committed to providing a child safe environment, which includes the following:

- taking a preventative, proactive and participatory stance on child protection issues
- valuing and embracing the opinions and views of children and young people
- assisting children and young people to build skills that will assist them to participate in society
- focusing on the protection of children and young people and take action to protect them from harm
- providing parents, guardians or carers with evidence of child safe environment policy and procedures when requested.

This Policy demonstrates the strong commitment of AUSF to the safety of children and young people and establishing and maintaining child safe and child friendly environments.

We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where all children and young people are respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.

Purpose

This Policy is designed to:

- show staff, volunteers, parents, guardians, carers, children and young people at AUSF are committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people;
- set out appropriate standards of behaviour and practices for people working and volunteering with children and young people;
- increase staff and volunteer awareness of risks to children and young people and the strategies in place to minimise them; and
- build staff and volunteer knowledge of how to identify if a child or young person is, or may be, at risk and respond appropriately.

Application

This Policy applies to AUSF and to all AUSF Affiliated Clubs. Affiliated Clubs may also be required to meet the requirements of child safe environments as defined by their State Sporting Organisation (SSO) or National Sporting Organisation (NSO).

Review

This Policy is reviewed according to the Document and Data Control Policy and at minimum reviewed and updated every 5 years.

Definitions

Child Safe Officer	The role of the Child Safe Officer is to deliver awareness training within their club, having attained certain competencies. The Child Safe Officer does not have a role in reporting and harm or risk of harm to a child or young person.
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	The person who has a reasonable belief that harm or risk of harm is occurring will need to contact the Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78 to discuss their concern
Member Protection Information Officers	Member Protection Information Officers (MPIOs) play an important role as they are the persons responsible for providing information and options to an individual making a complaint or raising a concern, as well as giving support during the process.
Mandated Notifier	<p>Mandated notifiers are legally required to notify the Department for Child Protection if they suspect on reasonable grounds that a child or young person is, or may be, at risk.</p> <p>Under the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (Safety Act), the following people are mandated notifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ medical practitioners ▪ pharmacists ▪ registered or enrolled nurses ▪ dentists ▪ psychologists ▪ police officers ▪ community corrections officers ▪ social workers ▪ ministers of religion ▪ employees or volunteers in an organisation formed for religious or spiritual purposes ▪ teachers employed to teach in a school, preschool or kindergarten ▪ employees or volunteers in an organisation that provides health, welfare, education, sporting or recreational, child care or residential services wholly or partly for children, being a person who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provides such services directly to children or young people; or ○ holds a management position in the organisation and supervises or has direct responsibility for providing those services to children and young people; and ▪ An officer or employee of a prescribed organisation (Safety Act (SA 2012) section 114) who holds a management position in the organisation and supervises or has direct responsibility for providing services to children.

Policy

Risk Management

AUSF has a comprehensive Risk Management Policy and Risk Register. As part of this process, AUSF and Affiliated Clubs are annually required to assess child protection practices and treat any risks identified.

Code of Conduct

AUSF has a Code of Conduct, which defines expected standards of behaviour for all those involved in AUSF, Affiliated Clubs, and the broader community engaging with AUSF.

Degree of Participation

AUSF actively involve the participation of children and young people, where appropriate, particularly in the AUSF School Holiday Program and junior members.

Personal and Sensitive Information

All data and information is managed according to our Privacy Policy.

Screening and Supervision

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

This will be achieved using a range of screening measures such as the Department of Human Services (DHS) Working with Children Checks (WWCC), signed declarations, referee checks, and other relevant background checks. Such measures will aim to minimise the likelihood of engaging (or retaining) people who are unsuitable to work with children.

WWCC

WWCC aim to create a child-safe environment and to protect children and young people involved in our sport from physical and sexual harm.

They assess the suitability of people to work with children and young people and can involve:

- criminal history checks;
- signed declarations;
- referee checks; and
- other relevant background checks to assess a person's suitability to work with children and young people.

AUSF will ensure that WWCC are conducted for employees and volunteers working with children, where an assessment is required by law. Clubs are required to ensure that the same checks are completed for their volunteers. A WWCC can be applied for by affiliated club volunteers on the AUSF website.

Detailed information, including the forms required to complete a Working with Children Check, are available from the Department of Human Services [<https://dhs.sa.gov.au/>] and National Police Check [www.police.sa.gov.au]

Professional Development

AUSF complete training through Play By the Rules.

AUSF will ensure that volunteers and employees who work with children or have access to their records 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.

AUSF will also support mandated notifiers who are engaged in the delivery of sport and recreation to children, or hold a management position where their duties include direct responsibility for, or direct supervision of, the provision of those services to children) under to meet their legal obligation to notify of any reasonable suspicion of child harm or risk of harm.

For Clubs that have official junior programs, AUSF recommends that a Child Safe Officer be appointed. In other cases, AUSF is the first point of contact to report concern.

Reporting and First Response to Suspected Risk of Harm or Harm

AUSF will ensure that volunteers and employees are able to identify to children at risk of harm. The Child Safe Officer does not have a role in reporting and harm or risk of harm to a child or young person. The person who has a reasonable belief that harm or risk of harm is occurring will need to contact the Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78 to discuss their concern.

Breaches of Child Safe Environment Policy

Any person who has a reasonable belief that harm or risk of harm is occurring will need to contact the Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78 to discuss their concern.

The requirements for mandatory reporting in South Australia shall be followed:

<https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse/mandated-notifiers-and-their-role>

Support for AUSF Affiliated Clubs

On behalf of all AUSF Affiliated Clubs, AUSF will facilitate the achievement of Child Safe Environments and will maintain a 'Compliance Statement'. In return, Clubs must ensure that they are meeting the requirements of Child Safe Environments at AUSF.

An application can be made on the AUSF website to obtain a WWCC.

A letter of confirmation provided to AUSF by Clubs is required to confirm compliance with this Policy. AUSF do not audit clubs for compliance.

References

Privacy Policy, 025

Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017

Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016.