



THE LYSTERFIELD WOLVES

JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

CHILD SAFETY POLICY

Purpose

This policy demonstrates the commitment of committee members, officials, and volunteers of the Lysterfield Junior Football Club (LJFC) to child safety, and provides an outline of the policies and practices that LJFC has developed to keep everyone involved with our club safe from any form of abuse or neglect.

Policy Statement

Commitment to Child Safety

All children who are a part of LJFC have a right to feel and be safe. The welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority and LJFC has a zero tolerance to child abuse and neglect. LJFC strives to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe, are safe, are included and have fun.

Implementation

Application of Policy

This policy was developed by the LJFC Club Committee with reference to Victorian Government Child Safe Standards, and other related laws and policies and standards. The policy recognises the needs of all children to be safe. This policy applies to all individuals involved in our club including, but not limited to:

- Committee Members
- Coaches
- Volunteers
- Players
- Parents/Carers
- Spectators
- Service providers





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JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

LJFC's Child Safe Policy is communicated to volunteers and families via email and our website.

Child Abuse

Child abuse can take a broad range of forms including physical, sexual, emotional or psychological, & neglect. People to whom this policy applies need to be aware that child abuse can occur whenever there is actual or potential harm. These are circumstances that LJFC is committed to reducing the risk of.

Children's Rights to Safety and Participation

LJFC encourages children to express any concerns about their safety to a parent, carer, Team Manager, Coach, or the Club Child Safety Officer (as listed on our website).


LJFC listens to and acts on any concerns children, or their parents/carers, raise with us. Mandatory Reporting requirements and guidelines are adhered to by all Committee Members and volunteers. Matters are managed sensitively while respecting the privacy and obligations of all parties concerned.

LJFC takes seriously our responsibility to deliver a sporting environment that is caring, nurturing and safe. We promote equity, respect and safety by:

- actively anticipating children's diverse circumstances and responding effectively to those with additional vulnerabilities
- by giving all children access to information, support and complaints processes, and
- paying attention to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children with a disability and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Roles and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all at LJFC, from the Committee to volunteers and families, to:

- protect children and young people from all forms of abuse, bullying and exploitation by our people;
 - be alert to incidents of child abuse and neglect occurring outside of our sport that may have an impact on the children and young people; and
 - create and maintain a child safe culture that is understood, endorsed & put into action by all the individuals who work for, volunteer or access our programs and services.
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JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

- We expect all within our sport, regardless of their role or level of responsibility, to act to keep children safe from such harm by:
- adopting the practices and behaviour we have set as our standard when carrying out their roles, and reporting any abuse or neglect of which they become aware to the Child Safety Officer and/or to external authorities responsible for child protection or to police, regardless of who the abuse is being perpetrated by - staff and volunteers within our sport, or by those outside our sport including those from the child's family, extended family, their family's extended network or strangers.

Entity

LJFC President

Role/Responsibility

- Promote the commitment to this policy and its expectations.
- Support policy review on an annual cycle as a minimum or at a time governed by legislation, regulations, or organisational learnings that promote a change to the policy and all relevant procedural guidelines.
- Ensure compliance to the policy via an inbuilt review mechanism.
- Ensure adequate resources are allocated to allow for the development and effective implementation of this policy.
- Ensure that the Committee are aware of the appropriate recruitment, screening and employment practice in relation to individuals with specific roles in working, coaching or volunteering with children and families.



THE LYSTERFIELD WOLVES

JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

All LJFC Committee Members (including President)

- Ensure all involved in the club understand their obligations in accordance with the Child Safe Sport Commitment and any relevant LJFC policy and procedural documentation
- Ensure the suite of child safe policies is implemented and adhered to amongst relevant stakeholders.
- Ensure the development and implementation of required internal policy/work procedures and guidelines are in place to support child protection practice in accordance with the relevant standard, laws and policies.
- Develop opportunities for regular discussion at all levels to support a culture of openness and continued improvement and accountability to child protection and member welfare.
- Advocate and promote child rights, empowering and engaging children and young people in support of this policy and its expectations.

Child Safeguard Officer (CSO)

- Help adults at the Club understand their obligations to protect children and young people and promote their rights. Be the first point of contact



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JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

for all safeguarding matters. Receive and escalate complaints, concerns and incidents to the club, Committee, or the EFNL, AFL for appropriate action.

