



SIMPLY SPORTS Child Safe Policy

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1. Purpose

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the administration, members, coaches, volunteers and parents to child safety and establishing and maintaining child safe and child friendly environments.

2. Context

This policy reflects our commitment to provide a safe environment where every person has the right to be treated with respect and is safe and protected from abuse. It complies with our obligations under the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* and the *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016*

It also complies with the Child Safe Environments: Principles of Good Practice and Standards for dealing with information obtained about the criminal history of volunteers and carers who work with children issued by the Chief Executive of the Department for Families and Communities.

3. Scope

This policy, from the date of endorsement, applies to all administration, members, coaches, volunteers, children, parents, carers and other individuals involved in Simply Sports.

4. Commitment to child safety (include risk management)

All children who are part of any Simply Sports activity have a right to feel and be safe. We are committed to the safety and well-being of all children and young people accessing any of our programs, competitions, events, camps or any other activity we're involved in. The welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where all children are valued and feel safe.

Adrian Gatto is a first point of contact to provide advice and support to children, parents, employees and volunteers regarding the safety and well-being of children in our care.

5. Children's participation

Administrators, members, volunteers, coaches, carers and parents encourage children to express their views, and make suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect children. We actively encourage children who access our activities to 'have a say' about those things that are important to them. We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices. We listen to and act on any concerns children, or their parents, raise with us. We use a 'Child Friendly' Grievance Chart to encourage children to talk to their coach or a trusted adult if they're feeling upset, sad or worried.

6. Recruitment practices

Simply Sports takes all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children. We employ a range of screening measures and apply best practice standards in the screening and recruitment of coaches, carers and volunteers. We interview and conduct referee checks on all coaches, carers and volunteers.

We conduct a Department of Human Services screening check to obtain a 'Working with Children' clearance, as set out in *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* and the *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016*.

We ensure that criminal history information is dealt with in accordance with the standards developed by the Chief Executive of the Department for Families and Communities.

7. Code of Conduct

All coaches, volunteers, carers and parents are made aware of, and must abide by, our Code of Conduct. Our Code of Conduct was developed and derived from the main sporting organisations of the main sports played by our participants. I.e. FFSA and Netball Australia

8. Support for employees and volunteers

Simply Sports will provide support and supervision so people feel valued, respected and fairly treated. We ensure that administrators, coaches, volunteers, members, parents and carers who work with children have ongoing supervision, support and training so that their performance is developed and enhanced to promote the establishment and maintenance of a child safe environment.

9. Reporting and responding to suspected child abuse and neglect

Simply Sports does not tolerate incidents of child abuse.

All coaches, volunteers, carers and parents understand their obligation to notify the Child Abuse Report Line on 13 14 78 as soon as practicable if they have a reasonable suspicion that a child has been, or is being, abused or neglected by a member of their family.

We ensure that coaches, volunteers, carers and parents are aware of how to make appropriate reports of abuse or neglect. We also provide opportunities for coaches to attend an information session on mandatory reporting and complete RAN training.

Coaches, volunteers, carers and parents must also report to Adrian Gatto any reasonable suspicion that a child has been, or is being, abused or neglected by another coach, volunteer, carer or parent. Simply Sports may resolve to take protective action to keep the child and others safe. (**Note:** we also as an organisation have policies and procedures in place to ensure that confidentiality and natural justice applies.)

10. Strategies to minimise risk

To help maintain a safe environment for children, Simply Sports reviews its risks regularly and implements strategies to minimise and manage these risks.

Policies and procedures that are addressed (but are not limited to):

- Safety
- Injuries
- Transportation
- Taking images of children
- Supervision of children
- Code of conduct
- Child safety officer
- Complaints procedures
- Physical contact
- Responsibilities
- Procedure for breaches of policy
- Training\cyber safe guidelines
- Protecting privacy and confidentiality

11. Harassment/bullying

Simply Sports opposes all forms of harassment, discrimination and bullying. We take this issue seriously and encourage anyone who believes that they, or another person, has been harassed, discriminated against or bullied to raise this issue with Adrian Gatto.

12. Communication

Simply Sports will ensure that everyone to whom this policy applies is aware of and has had an opportunity to read the policy.

We also ask all coaches and volunteers (where appropriate) to sign a written statement indicating that they have read and will abide by our child-safe policy. We retain a copy of all signed statements. Parents and carers are required to agree to our Terms and Conditions which include all our policies.

13. Related policies and procedures

Related policies and procedures that support our child-safe policy.

Include:

- Code of conduct
- Risk Assessment
- Child Friendly Grievance Chart
- Terms and Conditions to be agreed to by parents indicating they have read and will abide by them.

Approved by	Date	Review date
Adrian Gatto	10-01-2020	10-01-2023

In developing this policy Simply Sports have utilised a template provided by the Department for Families and Communities that has drawn on resources prepared by the Play by the Rules initiative (www.playbytherules.net.au), South Australian Office for Volunteers (www.ofv.sa.gov.au) and the NSW Commission of Children and Young People (www.kids.nsw.gov.au).