



SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUBS

Children thrive in communities that are friendly and connected. Sports and recreation clubs play a crucial role in building community and creating positive experiences for children.



Children need positive role models. You can do this by showing respect to all players, coaches, referees, volunteers and families.

Show children that they are a valued part of a community by being friendly to other club members. Knowing the names of children on their team or in their club can help to make children and young people feel like they are part of a community.

Consider becoming a Child Safe Organisation and encourage all staff and volunteers to undertake training to implement child safe practices across the organisation. Additional training could also be accessed by Board members and senior staff.

Children have the right to feel able to speak up and to be listened to, respected and believed. You can help by listening to children and young people, and asking for their views and opinions.

Importantly, always believe children if they tell you something important about their safety and wellbeing. Be aware of the indicators and risks of child abuse and neglect and speak up if you are concerned about a child or family at your club.

Find out about your club's policies and procedures and familiarise yourself with the codes of conduct - these should be treated seriously; not just as something to tick off.

Do your bit to help at the club. Even if you can volunteer a small amount of time, this shows children that you care, and gives you the opportunity to be part of the community.

Be available and approachable, so that families that may be isolated can feel included and involved.

A code of conduct for working with children and young people is a practical tool for promoting clear and consistent roles and behaviour. Ensure that all staff and volunteers engaged in child related work hold a valid Working With Children Check. When implemented and supported consistently, these policies work to protect children, workers and the organisation.

Children need trusted adults who will speak out and step in if needed. Think about safe and respectful ways to speak up if you see an adult being inappropriate or unkind towards a child or young person.

Be encouraging towards all players and don't just focus on winning.

Be aware of how you treat different genders. Are all the girls' and boys' teams treated fairly regardless of gender identity? Avoid phrases like 'boys will be boys'.