



Code of Conduct for Dealing with Children and Young People

We want water polo to be fun, enjoyable and safe for all. The Water Polo Victoria Safe Sport Framework is an essential part of Water Polo Victoria's proactive and preventative approach to safeguarding children and young people in our sport and addressing inappropriate behaviour for all of us in water polo. The Code has been developed to provide an outline of your responsibilities and appropriate standards of behaviour by adults towards children to help keep our sport safe. This Code is not intended to be nor should it be relied on as a complete statement of your responsibilities or a substitute for reading and understanding the Victorian Child Safe Standards or obtaining your own advice as to your responsibilities. The Code of Conduct for Dealing with Children and Young People aims to protect children and reduce any opportunities for abuse or harm to occur. This Code of Conduct for Dealing with Children and Young People applies to all people involved in Water Polo Victoria's activities, including clubs, coaches, officials, volunteers and parents.

Water Polo Victoria, its member clubs and participants (paid and volunteer) are responsible for promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people by:

- Adhering to Water Polo Victoria's Safe Sport Framework and the Codes of Conduct
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Treating everyone with respect, including listening to and valuing their ideas and opinions
- Welcoming all children and their families and carers and being inclusive
- Respecting cultural, religious and political differences and acting in a culturally sensitive way, particularly when interacting with children who are Aboriginal or otherwise culturally or linguistically diverse and those with a disability
- Modelling appropriate adult behaviour
- Listening to children and responding to them appropriately
- Reporting and acting on any breaches of this Code of Conduct, complaints or concerns appropriately and treat them seriously and with respect.
- Complying with our guidelines on physical contact with children
- Working with children in an open and transparent way – other adults should always know about the work you are doing with children
- Respecting the privacy of children and their families, and only disclosing information to people who have a need to know.

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Everyone in water polo must:

- Use language around young people which provides clear direction, boosts their confidence, is positive and affirming and not in any way:
 - discriminatory
 - racist
 - sexist
 - derogatory or negative
 - threatening or intimidating
 - profane or sexual in nature or content.
- Only use social media and electronic communications to communicate with a young person on issues directly related to water polo activities and, wherever possible, copy such communication to the parent or carer. Further, such communication should never be used to arrange unauthorised social contact or include anything of a sexual nature.
- Ensure that any physical contact with a young person is necessary and appropriate to the water polo related activity;
- Never engage in any sexual behaviour whether involving physical contact or not with or in the presence of a young person;
- Do not provide transportation for or engage in any social contact with a young person unless specifically authorised by that person's parent or carer;
- Avoid unsupervised situations with young people;
- Do not give gifts to a young person without approval from that person's parent or carer;
- Not take any images of a young person unless:
 - Prior permission has been obtained;
 - It is directly related to participation in water polo;
 - The young person is appropriately dressed and posed; and
 - It is taken in the presence of another person in authority.
- Never allow overnight stays by a young person unless:
 - Prior permission has been obtained from the parent or carer and Water Polo Victoria or the young person's water polo club; and
 - The practices and behaviour during any such stay are consistent with the Safe Sport Framework and generally accepted community standards.
- Avoid one-on-one situations with a young person in a change room whilst balancing any requirement for supervision of a young person in a change room with their right to privacy;
- Whilst carrying out any role in water polo, paid or otherwise:
 - Do not use, possess, supply or be under the influence of alcohol or any illegal, illicit or performance enhancing substance; or
 - Do not smoke any tobacco related product.

Everyone in water polo **MUST NOT:**

- Seek to use children in any way to meet the needs of adults
- Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse
- Use prejudice, oppressive behaviour or language with children
- Engage in rough physical games
- Discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability or sexuality
- Initiate unnecessary physical contact with children or do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- Develop 'special' relationships with specific children or show favouritism through the provision of gifts or inappropriate attention
- Exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking site or email addresses with children
- Have unauthorised contact with children and young people online or by phone.

I have read this Code of Conduct for Dealing with Children and Young People and agree to abide by it always:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Role: _____

Date: _____