



Barossa United Junior Soccer Club Child Safe Environment Policy

Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 Principles of Good Practice	1
2. Context	2
3. Child Safe Environment Requirements	2
3.1 Lodging a Compliance Statement.....	2
3.2 National Police Check.....	2
3.3 Mandated Notifiers	3
3.4 Responding to Abuse and Neglect for Volunteers (RAN) Training.	4
4. Code of Conduct	4
5. Strategies to Minimise Risk.....	5
Appendix 1: Child Safety Officers.....	6

1. Introduction

This policy has been developed to demonstrate the strong commitment of the Barossa United Junior Soccer Club (BUJSC) community has to child safety and to establishing and maintaining a child safe, and child friendly environment in which to play soccer.

1.1 Principles of Good Practice

In accordance with the South Australian Government Office of Recreation and Sport, 'Keeping Children Safe in Recreation and Sport', the BUJSC has been guided by the principles of good practice in the development of this policy, including:

- Principle 1: Identify and analyse risk of harm
- Principle 2: Develop a clear and accessible Child Safe Policy
- Principle 3: Develop Codes of Conduct for adults and children
- Principle 4: Choose suitable employees and volunteers
- Principle 5: Support, train, supervise and enhance performance
- Principle 6: Empower and promote participation by children in decision-making and service development
- Principle 7: Report and respond appropriately to suspected abuse and neglect

2. Context

BUJSC is committed to the safety and well-being of all children and young people accessing our Soccer Club and 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.

We have appointed a Child Safety Coordinator and Child Safe Officers who are the first point of contact to provide advice and support to children, parents, committee members and volunteers regarding the safety and well-being of children at our club.

BUJSC complies with our obligations under The Children’s Protection Act 1993 which requires that organisations:

- Develop policies and procedures to establish and maintain child safe environments.
- Meet ‘relevant history information’ requirements for people working with or in close proximity to children or their records in prescribed positions.
- Lodge a statement setting out their child safe environment policies and procedures. The statement should confirm that their child safe environment policies and procedures are of a standard set by DECD.

3. Child Safe Environment Requirements

BUJSC 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, and volunteers.

3.1 Lodging a Compliance Statement.

From January 2011 sport and recreation organisations that provide services for children are required to lodge a child safe environment compliance statement with the Department of Education and Child Development: Families SA. A child safe environment compliance statement is a statement from BUJSC about our child safe environment policies and procedures.

This is a once only requirement. BUJSC lodged their Compliance Statement in January 2019.

3.2 National Police Check

Football Federation SA stipulates that a National Police Check must be undertaken by all persons involved in the club aged 18 years and above, who hold a ‘Prescribed Position’, as outlined below:

A prescribed position is:

- All people who have regular contact with children or regular work in close proximity to children and are not directly supervised.
- Manage or supervise such personnel.
- Have access to records in relation to children that are prescribed by regulation (child protection services, education services, health services, disability services, court orders, and proceedings).

Exemptions:

- A person who volunteers who is less than 18 years of age.
- A person working or volunteering for a short-term event or activity of less than 10 days duration or for no more than 1 day in a month.
- A person occupying a position in which all work involving children is undertaken in the presence of the child's parents or guardians and in which there is ordinarily no physical contact with the children.
- A person who undertakes, or a position that only involves, work that is not for the exclusive benefit of children and is not provided to any child on an individual basis.
- A person who is a police officer or a registered teacher.

All BUJSC volunteers in prescribed positions have undergone a National Policy Clearance Check. This information is kept by the BUJSC Secretary in a National Police Clearance Registry outlining full name, date of issue, reference number and suitability to hold a position with the BUJSC.

3.3 Mandated Notifiers

The *Children's Protection Act 1993* makes it a legal requirement for certain people to report any reasonable suspicion or incidences of abuse or neglect. This obligation is known as mandatory notification and a penalty may stem from an individual's failure to comply. Notifications must be made to the Families SA *Child Abuse Report Line on 13 14 78*.

Reasonable grounds may include:

- A disclosure of abuse by a child.
- Professional judgment, based on the notifier's experience and observations.
- Disclosure by a child or an adult that a child is being abused or is at risk.

Definition

Mandated notifiers are an employee of, or volunteer in, a government or non government organisation that provides health, welfare, education, ***sporting or recreational***, child care or residential services wholly or partly for children. These people:

- Are engaged in the actual delivery of those services to children, or

- Hold a management position in the relevant organisation the duties of which include direct responsibility for, or direct supervision of, the provision of those services to children.

Staff and volunteers of recreation and sporting bodies who work with children fit these descriptions and so have a legal obligation (are mandated) to report any suspected child abuse and/or neglect.

BUJSC has appointed Child Safety Officers who have received Child Safety Training and are the point of contact within the Club for players, coaches, parents and other members to raise any issues or concerns they may have around the safety of children within the Club. (Refer to Appendix 1 for full list of BUJSC Child Safety Officers).

3.4 Responding to Abuse and Neglect for Volunteers (RAN) Training.

BUJSC volunteers attend a RAN training. In this session they learn about their obligations as a mandated notifier and the circumstances that could make children and young people vulnerable to harm. This training also has information about protective practices and discusses what BUJSC volunteers are expected to do if they have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of children and young people. This training also helps BUJSC volunteers to understand appropriate ways of relating with children and young people.

4. Code of Conduct

To be able to provide all members, spectators, parents and visitors with a positive environment, we expect everyone to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the Club at all times. The role of the BUJSC Code of Conduct is to outline these expectations.

Our Code of Conduct includes guidelines for:

- Participation For All
- Members Code of Conduct
- Players Code of Conduct
- Parents and Spectator Code of Conduct
- Alcohol and Smoking Policy
- Weather Policy
- Vision Equipment Correction Policy
- Wearing of Jewellery Guidelines
- Members and Players Communication and Use of Technology Policy

BUJSC Code of Conduct can be viewed on here: www.barossaunited.com.au

5. Strategies to Minimise Risk

To help maintain a safe environment for children BUJSC reviews its risks regularly and implements strategies to minimise and manage these risks. Policies and procedures that are addressed include:

I. Safety

- Speed limits in the carpark.
- Inclement weather policy.
- Equipment officer regularly monitors equipment and ensures quality.
- Supervision of children; parents are notified of their responsibilities to supervise children at matches and training.
- Child Safety Officer's appointed to be point of contact for any concern any members of the Club may have.
- Coaches Code of Conduct which regards to physical contact of players.

II. Injuries

- Each team has a qualified First Aid person who will take charge in dealing with any injuries to a child.
- First aid kits are pitch side and included in all coaches equipment.
- First aid kits are professionally checked to ensure kits are fully stocked.

III. Media and Privacy

- Taking images of children / permission to use photograph rules are in place at the club to ensure the club has parental permission to reproduce any images of children playing sport.
- Coaches are all informed of media / photography regulations.
- Protecting privacy and confidentiality; when players register all data collected during registration is stored confidentially with controlled access.

IV. Policies and Procedures

- Code of conduct in place for coaches, members, players.
- Complaints procedures in place.
- Procedure for breaches of policy and disciplinary matters are in place.
- RAN training for volunteers.

Appendix 1: Child Safety Officers

Barossa United Junior Soccer Club have appointed Child Safety Officers who are the first point of contact to provide advice and support to children, parents, committee members and volunteers regarding the safety and well-being of children at our Club.

Child safe contact email:
childsafety@barossaunited.com.au