



# **Point Cook Football Club**

## **Child Safe Policy**

**Endorsed By:** Point Cook Football Club Committee, Committee Meeting – 1 July 2019  
**Approved By:** Point Cook Football Club Committee  
**Date for Review:** July 2021

### **Purpose**

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the management, staff and volunteers of the Point Cook Football Club (PCFC) to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and practices the Club has developed to keep everyone safe from harm, including abuse.

### **Child Safety Mission Statement**

The PCFC is committed to promoting and protecting the safety and well-being of children and young people in our care. We seek to promote and protect the rights of all children in our care and prevent abuse from occurring by fostering a child safe culture. The welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority and the Club has a zero tolerance to child abuse.

### **Application of this Policy**

This policy applies to all individuals involved in our organisation (paid and volunteer) including, but not limited to: Administrators; Coaches; Officials; Participants; Parents; and Spectators.

All of the people to which this policy applies have a role and responsibility in relation to child protection. They must all:

- Understand the indicators and risks of child abuse;
- Appropriately act on any concerns raised by children; and
- Understand and follow all applicable laws in relation to the protection of children and reporting or management of child safety concerns

### **Child Abuse**

Child abuse can take a broad range of forms including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse and neglect.

### **Children's Rights to Safety and Participation**

The Club encourages children to express their views about their safety. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all junior players to 'have a say' about things that are important to them. We teach children about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns children, or their parents, raise with us.

### **Valuing Diversity**

We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices. To achieve this we:

- Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children and their families;
- Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and their families;
- Welcome children with a disability and their families and act to promote their participation; and
- Seek appropriate staff from diverse cultural backgrounds.



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### **Recruiting staff and volunteers**

The PCFC takes the following steps to ensure best practice standards in the recruitment and screening of staff and volunteers. PCFC requires Working with Children Checks for relevant positions.

### **Supporting staff and volunteer**

The PCFC seeks to attract and retain the best staff and volunteers. We provide support and supervision so people feel valued, respected and fairly treated. We have developed a Code of Conduct to provide guidance to our staff and volunteers, all of whom receive training on the requirements of the Code.

### **Reporting a child safety concern or complaint**

The PCFC has appointed the Senior Administrator as Child Safety Person(s) with the specific responsibility of responding to any complaints made by staff, volunteers, parents or children. That person can be contacted via [senioradmin@pointcookfc.com.au](mailto:senioradmin@pointcookfc.com.au).

### **Risk Management**

We encourage the importance of a risk management approach to minimising the potential for child abuse or harm to occur and use this to inform our policy, procedures and activity planning. In addition to general occupational health and safety risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse to our children. To reduce the risk of child abuse occurring, adults to whom this policy applies should avoid direct, unsupervised contact with children. For example, this should be a consideration when:

- Using change room facilities;
- Using accommodation or overnight stays;
- Travel; or
- Physical contact when coaching or managing children.

### **Reviewing this policy**

This policy will be reviewed every two years and we undertake to seek views, comments and suggestions from children, parents, carers, staff and volunteers involved in the PCFC.