



Bowls Wellington

Child Protection Policy

Rationale

Children can be harmed through their experience of sport and recreation. This harm can take many forms including: physical harm from engaging in physical activity, emotional abuse, bullying, putdowns, inappropriate cultural practices, physical and sexual abuse, among other harmful practices. Harmful practices have no place in children's sport.

For the purpose of this policy, a child is recognised as someone under the age of 18.

Purpose

1. Children have the right to participate in sport and recreation that is safe and where they are protected from harm.
2. Children should feel respected, valued and encouraged to enjoy their participation and to reach their full potential.
3. Sport and recreation organisations have a duty of care when it comes to children and should take steps to ensure that children can participate safe in the activities they provide.

Guidelines

1. Ensure that suitable and appropriate staff and volunteers are engaged to work with children.
2. Use a simple but robust recruitment process that involves, when deemed appropriate, the following;
 - a. creating a job description
 - b. screening - including interviewing, police vetting and criminal record check for those working directly with children.
3. Identify and manage risk with consideration of the following;
 - a. physical harm due to the nature of the activity, surface, venue or environment
 - b. staff/volunteer – to child harm. eg abuse of position of trust
 - c. child-to-child harm. eg physical or emotional bullying, including the use of social media.
 - d. expectations of parents/caregivers

4. If physical or sexual abuse is suspected;
 - a. the welfare and interests of the child are the first and paramount considerations
 - b. suspected and actual incidences of reported harm should be responded to and recorded accurately and appropriately as soon as possible.

5. Create and distribute the Code of Conduct to all staff and volunteers who are directly working with children.

6. Parental consent is required whenever;
 - a. staff/volunteer's private transport is used
 - b. activities require an overnight stay

Outcome

Bowls Wellington Inc. is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children in its care. We recognize the responsibility to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm and exploitation while participating in our activities. Staff and volunteers will work together to embrace difference, diversity and respect the rights of children.