



## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

### **Chief Executive Officer Statement**

The issue of child abuse is a complex problem that has an impact on all areas of society, including participation in sport and recreation activities.

The Wood Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service, led to increased community awareness of the significant number of child sexual assaults and incidents of abuse, which occur. It also highlighted the need for the development and implementation of strategies to protect children from abusive situations.

Football NSW Ltd acknowledges its responsibility of protecting children from abuse. By implementing strategies that will assist in preventing child abuse from occurring, Football NSW Ltd believes it has taken a pro-active role in relation to child protection and intervention. These strategies will help to foster a safe and positive environment for children and young people to participate in the sport of football within NSW.

In addition, the development of Child Protection Policy and Guidelines provides Football NSW Ltd with an excellent risk management tool for developing prevention strategies and for the effective management of child abuse issues within sport.

Information contained in this document will create a framework and provide direction for employees, officials, coaches, volunteers, members and parents of children and young people involved in Football NSW, and affiliated organisations. It will help deliver a consistent approach to child abuse prevention at all levels within the game of football.

Football NSW  
Chief Executive Officer

# FOOTBALL NSW CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

## **Policy Statement**

Football NSW is committed to ensuring that the health, safety and welfare of children is maintained at all times during their participation in activities run by Football NSW and its affiliated bodies. Football NSW aims to promote a safe environment for all children and to assist all employees, coaches, referees, members and volunteers to recognise child abuse and neglect and follow the appropriate notification guidelines when reporting alleged abuse.

## **Why?**

The focus of the policy and guidelines is the prevention of child abuse in the sporting environment, specifically Football in the state of New South Wales as operating under the auspices of Football NSW.

This policy aims to promote the care and protection of children participating in Football NSW and provide information and direction for employees, official, coaches, volunteers and members of the organisation.

This policy will assist Football NSW in establishing coordinated strategies for dealing with the problem of child abuse and neglect in a responsible, effective and consistent manner, whilst acknowledging and recognising the requirements of the National Member Protection Policy of Football Federation Australia.

## **Key Objectives**

Through the development of this policy Football NSW objectives are to:

- Provide information to assist employees and volunteers in dealing with all forms of child abuse.
- Provide comprehensive guidelines relating to risk minimisation and reporting/notification guidelines.
- Provide direction to all employees and volunteers regarding their legal responsibilities under child protection legislation and the Working with Children Check in NSW.
- Promote and adopt Football NSW principles for child protection and intervention amongst employees, volunteers, coaches, members and parents of Children participating in the organisation's programs and competitions.

## **Scope**

The Child Protection Policy of Football NSW, in conjunction with the National Member Protection Policy of Football Federation Australia (FFA) is applicable to all management and employees (paid, voluntary, permanent or casual) of Football NSW, and its affiliated bodies to include all programs as operated directly by Football NSW.

## Implementation of Policy

In order to implement the child protection legislation Football NSW will undertake to:

- Implement strategies and guidelines that focus on the best interests of children and meet the requirements of child protection legislation and the Working with Children Check in NSW.
- Promote a safe and supportive environment for all children and young people participating in activities, which are under the control of Football NSW.
- Increase awareness and emphasise the importance of child protection issues in a sporting environment to all those involved with the activities of Football NSW. This includes administrators, coaches, officials, athletes, parents and their children.
- Ensure that all employees of Football NSW are aware of their responsibilities in relation to child protection legislation, in particular, the requirement under the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998, to inform their employers if they have been convicted of a serious sex offence.

## Expectations

Administrators, coaches, officials, members and volunteers often have a high level of contact with children in the sporting environment and play a major part in the successful operation of sporting activities.

Coaches and officials are often seen as role models. They have significant influence on the children they come into contact with and therefore have significant responsibilities.

Football NSW expects that all administrators, coaches and officials whether paid or unpaid, who participate in organised sport under the banner of this organisation will commit to implementing risk management strategies developed by Football NSW for child protection and recognise and comply with the requirements of the National Member Protection Policy of Football Federation Australia (FFA) and the requirements of the Working with Children Check as directed by the NSW Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP).

## Policy Review

Football NSW Child Protection Policy and Guidelines will be reviewed annually and updated in line with any legislative changes that have significant impact on the manner in which child protection issues are to be dealt with.

Should you have any queries regarding this policy, please contact Michelle Hanley, Risk Manager and State Member Protection Information Officer at Football NSW.

### *Bibliography:*

1. *Football Federation Australia (FFA), National Member Protection Policy.*
2. *NSW Commission for Children and Young People, Working With Children Check Guidelines.*