

Child Safe Officer in Sport and Recreation

All organisations providing a service to young people under 18 must be compliant government regulations surrounding child safe environments. To support this legislated requirement it is recommended that organisations engage a Child Safe Officer.

Sport SA, through a contractual arrangement with the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR) has been engaged to deliver the Child Safe Officer training and provide resources to support this role. Register for a course at <https://www.sportsa.org.au/trng> or for more details go to https://www.orsr.sa.gov.au/upcoming_courses_and_events.

Play by the Rules provides information and online training on equal opportunity and child protection to address inappropriate behaviour in sport. www.playbytherules.net.au It is recommended all persons providing a service directly to children and young people undertake the Child Protection; and harassment and Discrimination training modules.

The Child Safe Officer is an education role to promote awareness of child safe environments within their own organisation.

The Child Safe Officer may:

- provide awareness/information sessions to committees, volunteers or the broad membership of the organisation
- distribute or promote the Child Safe policy and procedures to all club members
- work with the committee/board to assess risks to child safety within the organisation and develop procedures to minimise this risk
- ensure the organisation undertakes correct screening of all volunteers and employees according to the current legislation

The Child Safe Officer may also be the first point of contact for members who have concerns about a child or young person within the organisation and provide support to assist the member with making a report to the Child Abuse Report Line (13 14 78).

Please note:

The Child Safe Officer is not responsible for making a report on behalf of a member to the Child Abuse Report Line nor should they take any responsibility in dealing with an issue.

Issues must be reported to a person in a senior management role who will determine further action, if required.

Key skills and knowledge of a Child Safe Officer:

- Understand the legislative requirements for organisations to adopt appropriate screening processes for members working with young participants.
- Understand how and why child protection needs to be included in an organisation Member Protection Policy (MPP) or for a separate Child Protection Policy to be adopted.
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of the requirements under the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* and the *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016* of the legal responsibilities of staff and volunteers working with children.
- Understand the definitions and indicators of a child at risk.
- Gain a board knowledge of the Child Abuse Report Line processes and procedures.