

Child safe environments for sport and recreation organisations

It is everyone's responsibility to make sure children and young people are protected, respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.

South Australian requirements

Organisations providing services to children and young people must:

- have a child safe environments policy in place which is reviewed every five years (at a minimum);
- lodge a child safe environments compliance statement with the Department of Human Services and lodge a new statement each time their policy is reviewed and updated; and
- meet Working with Children Check obligations.

Child safe policy

Child safe policies must:

- align with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations; and
- reflect South Australian legislation.

Most clubs are bound by policies provided by their governing body. If you are from an affiliated club and unsure of which policies apply to your club, you should contact your relevant national or state sporting organisation.

If your organisation does not have a governing body or needs to develop its own policies, there is a policy template for sport and recreation organisations available on our [website](#).

Compliance statement

A child safe environments compliance statement must be [lodged online](#). Your organisation will be required to answer a range of questions about your child safe policy and practices and upload your policy for assessment.

If you are uploading the National Integrity Framework Child Safeguarding Policy, it must include the South Australian addendum. Speak to your national body if this is not included with your policy.

Clubs should check if a statement has been lodged on their behalf with their state sporting organisation before doing so.

Working with Children Checks

Anyone over 14 years, who does child-related work more than seven days a year, must have a Working with Children Check.

For sport and recreation clubs and associations with significant membership or involvement of children, all paid staff and volunteers need a Working with Children Check regardless of whether they have direct contact with children.

Your organisation must register with the Department of Human Services Screening Unit and [verify, via your online portal](#), that each staff member or volunteer has a valid working with Children Check and is not prohibited. Sighting a clearance email is not verification - this must be done online.

For assistance with legal requirements, policy advice/development and compliance statements, contact the Department of Human Services on 8463 6468 or via email at dhs.childsafe@sa.gov.au

For assistance with Working with Children Checks, contact the Screening Unit on 1300 321 592 or via email at dhsscreeningunit@sa.gov.au

