



South Melbourne Districts Sports Club – Junior Footy

Child safe code of conduct – Staff and volunteers

Purpose

This code:

- aims to create a child-safe and child-friendly environment where children feel safe and can have fun
- specifies the minimum standards of behaviour towards children who are part of South Melbourne Districts
- provides guidance to South Melbourne Districts' staff and volunteers on supporting the child safe policy
- applies to all individuals involved in South Melbourne Districts, including paid and volunteer and including administrators, coaches, officials, participants, parents and spectators

General

1. **Child abuse:** Take all reasonable steps to protect children from child abuse. Be aware that child abuse can take a broad range of forms, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse and neglect, and child abuse can occur if there is actual or potential harm to a child.
2. **Child participation:** Encourage children to express their views about their safety and “have a say” about things that are important to them. Listen to and act on any concerns raised by children (or their parents) and listen to suggestions made by children, especially on matters directly affecting them.
3. **Diversity:** Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children and their families and children from culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds and their families. Welcome children with a disability and their families and promote their participation.
4. **Reporting:** If you have any child safety concerns or complaints, report the concern or complaint to the child safety officer. See contact details below. If you have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is in immediate or serious danger, report the concern to the police. See further information below.

Staff and volunteers

1. Place the safety and welfare of children above all else
2. Model appropriate adult behaviour
3. Work with children in an open and transparent way
4. Respect the privacy of children and their families and only disclose information to people who need to know
5. Don't ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
6. Don't initiate unnecessary physical contact with a child or show favouritism to a child
7. Don't leave an adult alone with a child or be alone with a child where you will be conducting things of a personal nature, such as toileting or changing clothes
8. Don't do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
9. Don't use inappropriate, oppressive or prejudicial language or behaviour with a child or in the presence of a child
10. Don't discriminate against a child, including because of culture, race, ethnicity or disability
11. Don't have contact with a child or their family outside of South Melbourne Districts, such as babysitting, without the child safety officer's knowledge and consent
12. Don't exchange personal contact details with a child, such phone number, social network account name or e-mail address
13. Don't have any online or phone contact with a child or their family, except as part of South Melbourne Districts' official communication channel



I agree to adhere to South Melbourne Districts' child safe policy and this code and acknowledge my responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to the child safety officer.

Signature	
Name	
Role	
Date	

Reporting

Child safety officer

If you have any child safety concerns or complaints, report the concern or complaint to the child safety officer below:

Name	Mary Studdert
E-mail	secretary.juniorfooty@smdsc.com.au
Phone	0415 677 424

Police

If you have reasonable grounds to suspect a child is in immediate or serious danger, there's a legal obligation to report the concern to the police.

- **Failure to disclose:** Any adult who has a reasonable belief that an adult has committed a sexual offence against a child under 16 has an obligation to report that information to the police.
- **Failure to protect:** Any adult who knows of a substantial risk of child sexual abuse and has the power or responsibility to remove the risk, but negligently fails to do so, commits an offence.

What to do

If a child confides in you regarding an incident:

1. Remain calm and listen carefully. Don't push for details. Your job is to listen and investigate. Don't ask leading questions. Instead, use phrases like *Then, what happened?*
2. Reassure the child you believe them, it's not their fault and they did the right thing to speak up.
3. Let the child know you will report the incident so that it can stop. Don't make promises you can't keep, such as not telling anyone.
4. Don't leave the child alone in a distressed state. If they're comfortable in your care, stay with them. If you believe the child is at immediate risk of abuse, phone 000.

As soon as possible after the disclosure:

1. Record the incident in the child's own words.
2. Report the incident.
3. Ensure the disclosure is properly and accurately recorded, reported and stored. Don't discuss what you have been told with others who aren't directly involved with helping the child.