



CROQUET AUSTRALIA

(AUSTRALIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION INC)

MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

VERSION Six

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Review History

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PREFACE

The Australian Croquet Association is the national peak body for the administration of croquet and related sports in Australia. We are committed to the health, safety and well-being of all participants in the sport. We are also committed to ensure that all participants in the sport are treated fairly and equally and they all have an equal opportunity to participate in the sport.

The regular exercise and social interaction provided in the club environment, contribute a great deal to an individual's health, fitness and self esteem. Unfortunately, harassment or abuse in sport can have devastating effects for the individuals involved and for the sporting organisation itself. Apart from the legal consequences of harassment or abuse, we may be faced with declining morale, an unpleasant environment, higher turnover of volunteers and the prospect of long-term damage to the organisation's image and reputation.

I commend this policy to all who participate in the sport and reinforce that we all have a responsibility to ensure that each individual is accorded respect and equality.

Robyn Wallace
President

PART A: MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

1. Australian Croquet Association's Core Values

The Australian Croquet Association's mission is to function as the controlling body for the sport and associated racket sports in Australia. It aims to provide all players with fair competition, access to high standard facilities, and equity in participation in the sport at all levels.

2. Purpose of this policy

This Member Protection Policy aims to ensure our core values, good reputation, positive behaviours and attitudes are maintained. It assists us in ensuring that every person involved in our sport is treated with respect and dignity, and is safe and protected from abuse. This policy ensures that everyone involved in our sport is aware of his or her legal and ethical rights and responsibilities. This policy reflects our support and implementation of the sport industry principles and values outlined in **The Essence of Australian Sport** – principles of fairness, respect, responsibility and safety.

The policy attachments provide the procedures that support our commitment to eliminating discrimination, harassment, child abuse and other forms of inappropriate behaviour from our sport. As part of this commitment the Australian Croquet Association or relevant state association will take disciplinary action against any person or organisation bound by this policy if they breach it.

This policy has been endorsed by the Australian Croquet Association's Executive Committee. The policy starts on **9 May 2012** and will operate until replaced. This policy and/or its attachments may be amended from time to time by resolution of the Executive Committee. Copies of the policy and its attachments can be obtained from our website <http://www.croquet-australia.com.au/> or from the Executive Director.

3. Who this Policy Applies To

This policy applies to the following, whether they are in a paid or unpaid/voluntary capacity:

- 1 Individuals sitting on boards, committees and sub-committees;
- 2 Employees and volunteers;
- 3 Support personnel (e.g. managers, physiotherapists, psychologists, masseurs, sport trainers);
- 4 Coaches and assistant coaches;
- 5 Players;
- 6 Referees, umpires and other officials;
- 7 Members, including life members;
- 8 Member associations;
- 9 Affiliated clubs and associated organisations;
- 10 Peak associations and the national body;
- 11 Any other person or organisation that is a member of, or affiliated to, the Australian Croquet Association;
- 12 Parents, guardians, spectators and sponsors to the full extent that is possible.

[This policy will continue to apply to a person even after they have stopped their association or employment with the Australian Croquet Association if disciplinary action, relating to an allegation of child abuse against that person, has commenced.]

4. Code Of Conduct

The Australian Croquet Association requires every individual and organisation bound by this policy to:

- 4.1 Be ethical, fair and honest in all their dealings with other people and the Australian Croquet Association;
- 4.2 Treat all persons with respect and courtesy and have proper regard for their dignity, rights and obligations;
- 4.3 Always place the safety and welfare of children above other considerations;
- 4.4 Comply with the Australian Croquet Association's constitution, rules and policies including this member protection policy;
- 4.5 Operate within the rules and spirit of the sport;
- 4.6 Comply with all relevant Australian laws (Federal and State/Territory), particularly anti-discrimination and child protection laws;
- 4.7 Be responsible and accountable for their conduct; and

4.8 Abide by the relevant role-specific Codes of Conduct outlined in Part D of this policy.

5. Organisational Responsibilities

The Member Associations must:

- 5.1** Adopt, implement and comply with this policy;
- 5.2** Publish, distribute and otherwise promote this policy and the consequences for breaching it;
- 5.3** Promote appropriate standards of conduct at all times;
- 5.4** Promptly deal with any breaches of, or complaints made under, this policy in an impartial, sensitive, fair, timely and confidential manner;
- 5.5** Apply this policy consistently without fear or favour;
- 5.6** Recognise and enforce any penalty imposed under this policy;
- 5.7** Ensure that a copy of this policy is available or accessible to the persons to whom this policy applies;
- 5.8** Appoint, or have access to, appropriately trained people to receive and handle complaints and allegations (e.g. Member Protection Information Officers (MPIOs) and/or Complaint Managers) and display the names and contact details in a way that is readily accessible; and
- 5.9** Monitor and review this policy at least annually.

6. Individual Responsibilities

Individuals bound by this policy are responsible for:

- 6.1** Making themselves aware of the policy and complying with its standards of behaviour.
- 6.2** Complying with all screening requirements and any state/territory 'Working with Children' checks.
- 6.3** Complying with all other requirements of this policy.
- 6.4** Co-operating in providing a discrimination, child abuse and harassment-free sporting environment.
- 6.5** Placing the safety and welfare of children above other considerations.
- 6.6** Being accountable for their behavior.
- 6.7** Following the procedures outlined in this policy if they wish to make a complaint, or report a concern about possible child abuse, discrimination, harassment or other inappropriate behaviour.
- 6.8** Complying with any decisions and/or disciplinary measures imposed under this policy.

7. Policy Position Statements

7.1 Child Protection Policy

Every person and organisation bound by this policy must always place the safety and welfare of children above all other considerations.

The Australian Croquet Association acknowledges that our staff, members and volunteers provide a valuable contribution to the positive experiences of our juniors. The Australian Croquet Association aims to ensure this continues and to protect the safety and welfare of its junior participants. Several measures will be used to achieve this such as:

- 1 Prohibiting any form of abuse against children;
- 2 Providing opportunities for our juniors to contribute to, and provide feedback on, our program development;
- 3 Carefully selecting and screening people whose role requires them to work with children (screening procedures are outlined in Part B of this policy);
- 4 Ensuring our codes of conduct, particularly for roles associated with junior sport, are promoted, enforced and reviewed;
- 5 Providing procedures for raising concerns or complaints (our complaints procedure is outlined in Part C of this policy); and
- 6 Providing education and/or information to those involved in our sport on child abuse and child protection.

The Australian Croquet Association requires that any child who is abused, or anyone who reasonably suspects that a child has been or is being abused, by someone within our sport, to report it immediately to the police or relevant government agency MPIO. Descriptions of the sorts of activity which may be abuse are in the Dictionary at clause 11.

All allegations of child abuse will be dealt with promptly, seriously, sensitively and confidentially. A person will not be victimised for reporting an allegation of child abuse and the privacy of all persons concerned will be respected. Our procedures for handling allegations of child abuse are outlined in attachment C4 of this policy.

If anyone bound by this policy reasonably suspects that a child is being abused by his or her parent/s, they are advised to contact the relevant government department for youth, family and community services in their State/Territory.

7.2 Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Policy

The Australian Croquet Association aims to provide a sporting environment where all those involved in its activities are treated with dignity and respect, and without harassment or discrimination.

The Australian Croquet Association recognises that all those involved in its activities cannot enjoy themselves, perform to their best, or be effective or fully productive if they are being treated unfairly, discriminated against or harassed because of their age, disability, family responsibilities, gender identity, homosexuality or sexual orientation, irrelevant medical or criminal record, marital status, political belief, pregnancy or breastfeeding, race, religion, sex, social origin and/or trade union membership/activity.

The Australian Croquet Association prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination based on personal characteristics listed in the Dictionary. Discrimination and harassment are extremely distressing, offensive, humiliating and/or threatening and create an uncomfortable and unpleasant environment. In most circumstances discrimination and harassment are against the law.

Descriptions of some of the types of behaviour which could be regarded as harassment or discrimination are provided in the Dictionary at clause 11.

If any person feels they are being harassed or discriminated against by another person or organisation bound by this policy, please refer to our complaints procedure outlined in attachment C of this policy. This will explain what to do about the behaviour and how the Australian Croquet Association will deal with the problem.

7.3 Sexual Relationships Policy

The Australian Croquet Association takes the position that sexual relationships between coaches and the adult players that they coach should be avoided. The Australian Croquet Association takes the view that such relationships while not necessarily constituting unlawful harassment can have harmful effects on the individual athlete involved, on other athletes and coaches, and on the sport's public image. Such relationships tend to be intentionally or unintentionally exploitative because there is usually a disparity between coaches and players in terms of authority, power, maturity, status and dependence. The Australian Croquet Association's policy position is similar to other organisations who disallow professionals such as teachers, doctors and counsellors to have sexual relationships with their clients or students.

Should a sexual relationship develop between a player and coach, the Australian Croquet Association will consider whether any action is necessary. Factors that may be relevant in this consideration are the age and maturity of the player relative to the coach, the financial or emotional dependence of the player on the coach, and the likelihood of the relationship having any adverse impact on the player and/or other players. If it is determined that the sexual relationship is inappropriate, action may be taken to stop the coaching relationship with the player. Action may include transfer, a request for resignation or dismissal from coaching duties.

In the event that a player attempts to initiate an intimate sexual relationship, the coach must take personal responsibility for discouraging such approaches, explaining the ethical basis for such action. The coach may wish to approach the MPIO or complaints officer if they feel harassed.

The law is always the minimum standard for behaviour within the Australian Croquet Association and therefore sex with a child is a criminal offence.

7.4 Pregnancy Policy

The Australian Croquet Association is committed to providing an inclusive sporting environment for pregnant women involved in its activities. The Australian Croquet Association expects everyone bound by this policy to treat pregnant women with dignity and respect and to remove any unreasonable barriers to participation in our sport that disadvantage them. We will not tolerate any unlawful discrimination or harassment against pregnant women or women who may become pregnant.

Descriptions of some of the types of behaviour which could be regarded as pregnancy discrimination or harassment are provided in the Dictionary at clause 11.

If any person feels they are being harassed or discriminated against by another person or organisation bound by this policy, please refer to our complaints procedure outlined in attachment C of this policy. This will explain what to do about the behaviour and how the Australian Croquet Association will deal with the problem.

While many sporting activities are safe for pregnant women to participate in, there may be particular risks that apply to some women during pregnancy. Those risks will depend on the nature of the particular sporting activity and the particular pregnant woman's circumstances.

The Australian Croquet Association will take reasonable care to ensure the safety, health and well being of pregnant women and their unborn children. We will advise pregnant women that there may be risks involved, and encourage them to obtain medical advice about those risks. Pregnant women should be aware that their own health and wellbeing, and that of their unborn children, are of utmost importance in their decision making about the extent and manner in which they participate in our sport.

We encourage all pregnant women to consult with their medical advisers, make themselves aware of the facts about pregnancy in sport, and ensure that they make informed decisions about participation in particular sporting activities.

We will only require pregnant women to sign a disclaimer if we require other participants to sign one in similar circumstances. We will not require women to undertake a pregnancy test.

7.5 Gender Identity Policy

The Australian Croquet Association is committed to providing an inclusive sporting environment where transgender or transsexual people involved in its activities are able to contribute and participate. The Australian Croquet Association expects everyone who is bound by this policy to treat people who identify as transgender or transsexual fairly and with dignity and respect. This includes acting with sensitivity and respect where a person is undergoing gender transition. We will not tolerate any unlawful discrimination or harassment against a person who identifies as transgender or transsexual or who is thought to be transgender or transsexual.

Descriptions of some of the types of behaviour which could be regarded as transgender or transsexual discrimination or harassment are provided in the Dictionary at clause 11.

If any person feels they are being harassed or discriminated against by another person or organisation bound by this policy, please refer to our complaints procedure outlined in attachment C of this policy. This will explain what to do about the behaviour and how the Australian Croquet Association will deal with the problem.

The Australian Croquet Association recognises that the exclusion of transgender or transsexual people from participation in sporting events has significant implications for their health, well-being and involvement in community life. In general, the Australian Croquet Association will facilitate transgender or transsexual persons participating in our sport of the sex with which they identify.

The Australian Croquet Association also recognises there is debate over whether a male to female transgender person obtains any physical advantage over other female participants. This debate is reflected in the divergent discrimination laws across the country. If issues of performance advantage arise, the Australian Croquet Association will seek advice on the application of those laws in the particular circumstances.

The Australian Croquet Association is aware that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has established criteria for selection and participation in the Olympic Games. Where a transgender or transsexual person intends competing at an elite level, we will encourage them to obtain advice about the IOC's criteria which may differ from the position taken by the Australian Croquet Association.

The Australian Croquet Association notes that drug testing procedures and prohibitions also apply to people who identify as transgender or transsexual. A person receiving treatment involving a Prohibited Substance or Method, as described on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List, should apply for a standard Therapeutic Use Exemption.

7.6 Other relevant policies

Other Australian Croquet Association relevant policies can be found at <http://www.croquet-australia.com.au/>.

8. Complaints Procedures

8.1 Complaints

The Australian Croquet Association aims to provide an easy to use, confidential and trustworthy procedure for complaints based on the principles of natural justice. Any person may report a complaint (complainant) about a person/s or organisation bound by this policy if they reasonably believe that a person/s or a sporting organisation has breached this policy. A complaint should be reported to a MPIO.

A complaint may be reported as an informal or formal complaint. The complainant decides whether the complaint will be dealt with informally or formally unless the person tasked with resolving the matter considers that the complaint falls outside the parameters of this policy and would be better dealt with another way.

All complaints will be dealt with promptly, seriously, sensitively and confidentially. Our complaint procedures are outlined in attachment C of this policy.

8.2 Vexatious Complaints & Victimisation

The Australian Croquet Association aims to ensure our complaints procedure has integrity and is free of unfair repercussions or victimisation. If at any point in the complaint process the relevant authority (state association, ACA Executive Committee or external authority) considers that a complainant has **knowingly** made an untrue complaint or the complaint is vexatious or malicious, the matter may be referred to the relevant authority for appropriate action which may include disciplinary action against the complainant (including reimbursement of the costs of the dispute resolution process).

The Australian Croquet Association will also take all necessary steps to make sure that people involved in a complaint are not victimised by anyone for coming forward with a complaint or for helping to sort it out. Disciplinary measures will be imposed on anyone who victimises another person for making a complaint.

8.3 Mediation

The Australian Croquet Association aims to sort out complaints with the minimum of fuss wherever possible. In many cases, complaints can be sorted out by agreement between the people involved with no need for disciplinary action. The people involved in a formal complaint - the complainant and the person complained about (respondent) - may also seek the assistance of a neutral third person or a mediator. Lawyers are not able to negotiate on behalf of the complainant and/or respondent.

Mediation may occur either before or after an investigation of a complaint. If a complainant wishes to try and resolve the complaint with the assistance of a mediator, the MPIO will, in consultation with the complainant, arrange for a mediator to mediate the complaint. More information on the mediation process is outlined in attachment C of this policy.

8.4 Tribunals

A hearings tribunal may be formed to hear a formal complaint or an alleged breach of the policy. The tribunal hearings procedure is outlined in attachment C5 of this policy.

A respondent may lodge one appeal only to the appeal tribunal in respect of a decision of a hearing tribunal. The decision of the appeal tribunal is final and binding on the people involved to the appeal. The appeals process is outlined in attachment C5 of this policy.

Every organisation bound by this policy will recognise and enforce any decision made, and form of discipline imposed, by an appeals tribunal under this policy.

Members of hearing and appeal tribunals will be indemnified by the organisation that appointed them against any claim for loss, compensation or damages, and for costs incurred defending a claim made against them, because of their function as a member of a hearings or appeals tribunal.

9. What is a Breach of this Policy?

It is a breach of this policy for any person or organisation to which this policy applies, to have been found to have;

- 9.1 Done anything contrary to this policy;
- 9.2 Breached the Code of Conduct or role-specific Codes of Conduct;
- 9.3 Brought the sport and/or the Australian Croquet Association into disrepute;
- 9.4 Failed to follow Australian Croquet Association policies and procedures for the protection, safety and welfare of children;
- 9.5 Appointed, or continued to appoint, a person to a role that involves working with children and young people contrary to this policy;
- 9.6 Discriminated against or harassed any person;
- 9.7 Victimised another person for reporting a complaint;
- 9.8 Engaged in a sexually inappropriate relationship with a person that the person supervises, or has influence, authority or power over;
- 9.9 Disclosed to any unauthorised person or organisation any Australian Croquet Association information that is of a private, confidential or privileged nature;
- 9.10 Made a complaint they **knew** to be untrue, vexatious, malicious or improper;
- 9.11 Failed to comply with a penalty imposed after a finding that the individual or organisation has breached this policy;
- 9.12 Failed to comply with a direction given to the individual or organisation during the discipline process.

10. Forms of Discipline

If an individual or organisation to which this policy applies breaches this policy, one or more forms of discipline may be imposed. These may include making a verbal or written apology, paying a fine, being suspended or de-registered or having a person's appointment or employment terminated. More information on the range of disciplinary measures and the factors that will be considered before imposing discipline is at attachment C6 of this policy.

11. Dictionary

This Dictionary sets out the meaning of words used in this policy and its attachments without limiting the ordinary and natural meaning of the words. State/Territory specific definitions and more detail on some of the words in this dictionary can be sourced from the relevant State/Territory child protection commissions or equal opportunity and anti-discrimination commissions.

Abuse is a form of harassment and includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and abuse of power. Examples of abusive behaviour include bullying, humiliation, verbal abuse and insults.

Child means a person who is under the age of 18 years (see also definition of young person).

Child abuse relates to children at risk of harm (usually by adults, sometimes by other children) and often by those they know and trust. It can take many forms. Children may be harmed by both verbal and physical actions and by people failing to provide them with basic care. Child abuse may include:

- Physical abuse by hurting a child or a child's development (e.g. hitting, shaking or other physical harm; giving a child alcohol or drugs; or training that exceeds the child's development or maturity).
- Sexual abuse by adults or other children where a child is encouraged or forced to watch or engage in sexual activity or where a child is subject to any other inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature (e.g. sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, pornography including child pornography or inappropriate touching or conversations).
- Emotional abuse by ill-treating a child (e.g. humiliation, taunting, sarcasm, yelling, negative criticism, name calling, ignoring or placing unrealistic expectations on a child).
- Neglect (e.g. failing to give food, water, shelter or clothing or to protect a child from danger or foreseeable risk of harm or injury).

Complaint means a complaint made under Part A 8.1.7 of this policy.

Complainant means the person making a complaint.

Discrimination means treating or proposing to treat someone less favourably than someone else because of a particular characteristic in the same or similar circumstances in certain areas of public life (this is **Direct Discrimination**). The law also covers **Indirect Discrimination**. This is imposing or intending to impose an unreasonable requirement, condition or practice that is the same for everyone, but which has an unequal or disproportionate effect on individuals or groups with particular characteristics. The characteristics covered by discrimination law across Australia are:

- 1 Age;
- 2 Disability;

- 3 Family/carer responsibilities;
- 4 Gender identity/transgender status;
- 5 Homosexuality and sexual orientation;
- 6 Irrelevant medical record;
- 7 Irrelevant criminal record;
- 8 Political belief/activity;
- 9 Pregnancy and breastfeeding;
- 10 Race;
- 11 Religious belief/activity;
- 12 Sex or gender;
- 13 Social origin;
- 14 Trade union membership/activity.

Some States and Territories include additional characteristics such as physical features or association with a person with one or more of the characteristics listed above.

Examples of Discrimination

Age: A club refuses to allow an older person to coach a team simply because of their age.

Breastfeeding: A member of the club who is breastfeeding her baby in the club rooms is asked to leave.

Disability: A junior player is overlooked because of her mild epilepsy.

Family responsibilities: A club decides not to promote an employee because he has a child with a disability even though the employee is the best person for the job.

Gender Identity: A transgender contract worker is harassed when employees refuse to call her by her female name.

Homosexuality: A player is ostracised from her team after she tells a team mate that she is a lesbian.

Marital Status: A player is deliberately excluded from team activities and social functions because she is single.

Pregnancy: A woman is dropped from her squad when she becomes pregnant.

Race: An Italian referee is not permitted to referee games with a high proportion of Italian players on one team because of his race.

Sex: Specialist coaching is only offered to male players in a mixed team.

Double Jeopardy refers to the principle that a person who has been the subject of a finalised tribunal hearing cannot be subjected to a further disciplinary process in relation to the same instance of an alleged offence.

Harassment is any type of behaviour that the other person does not want and does not return and that is offensive, abusive, belittling or threatening. The behaviour is unwelcome and of a type that a reasonable person would recognise as being unwelcome and likely to cause the recipient to feel offended, humiliated or intimidated.

Unlawful harassment includes the above but is either sexual or targets a person because of their race, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation or other characteristic (see characteristic list under discrimination).

It does not matter whether the harassment was intended: the focus is on the impact of the behaviour. The basic rule is if someone else finds it harassing then it could be harassment. Harassment may be a single incident or repeated. It may be explicit or implicit, verbal or non-verbal.

Under this policy discrimination and harassment are not permitted in employment (including volunteer and unpaid employment); when providing sporting goods and services including access to sporting facilities; when providing education and accommodation; the selection or otherwise of any person for competition or a team (domestic or international); the entry or otherwise of any player or other person to any competition and the obtaining or retaining membership of clubs and organisations (including the rights and privileges of membership).

Some exceptions to state and federal anti-discrimination law apply. Examples include:

- 1 holding a competitive sporting activity for females only who are 12 years of age or over where strength, stamina or physique is relevant or
- 2 not selecting a participant if the person's disability means he or she is not reasonably capable of performing the actions reasonably required for that sporting activity.

Requesting, assisting, instructing, inducing or encouraging another person to engage in discrimination or harassment may also be against the law.

It is also against discrimination law to victimise a person who is involved in making a complaint of discrimination or harassment. Example: a player is ostracised by her male coach for complaining about his sexist behaviour to another club official or for supporting another player who has made such a complaint.

Public acts of racial hatred which are reasonably likely in the circumstances to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate are also prohibited. This applies to spectators, participants or any other person who engages in such an act in public. Some States and Territories also prohibit public acts that vilify on other grounds such as homosexuality, gender identity, HIV/AIDS, religion and disability – see vilification.

Hearings Convenor in relation to a complaint made to the ACA means a person appointed by the ACA Executive Committee to manage a formal complaint referred by an MPIO.

Hearings Convenor in relation to a complaint made to a state member association means a person appointed by the Committee of that state association to manage a formal complaint referred by an MPIO.

Junior means a person under the age of eighteen (18) years who is participating in an activity.

Mediator means a person appointed to mediate complaints made under this policy. It is preferable that the mediator has relevant skills, qualifications and/or training in mediation.

Member means the recognised controlling body of croquet in each State that has paid any fees as decided by the Council from time to time.

Member protection is a term used by the Australian sport industry to describe the practices and procedures that protect members – both individual members such as players, coaches and officials, and the member organisations such as clubs, state associations, other affiliated associations and the national body. Member protection involves:

- 1 protecting those that are involved in sport activities from harassment, abuse, discrimination and other forms of inappropriate behaviour
- 2 adopting appropriate measures to ensure the right people are involved in an organisation, particularly in relation to those involved with juniors, and
- 3 providing education.

Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) means a person trained to be the first point of contact for a person reporting a complaint under, or a breach of, this policy. The MPIO provides confidential information and moral support to the person with the concern or who is alleging harassment or a breach of this policy. They help the complainant deal with any emotions they may have about what has happened and operate as a sounding board as the complainant decides what they want to do. The MPIO may accompany the complainant in anything they decide to do, if it feels appropriate and they are happy to do it.

Natural justice incorporates the following principles:

- 1 a person who is the subject of a complaint must be fully informed of the allegations against them
- 2 a person who is the subject of a complaint must be given full opportunity to respond to the allegations and raise any matters in their own defence
- 3 all parties need to be heard and all relevant submissions considered
- 4 irrelevant matters should not be taken into account
- 5 no person may judge their own case
- 6 the decision maker/s must be unbiased, fair and just
- 7 the penalties imposed must not outweigh the 'crime'

Police check means a national criminal history record check conducted as a prudent pre-employment or pre-engagement background check on a person.

Policy and this policy mean this Member Protection Policy.

Respondent means the person who is being complained about.

Role-specific codes of conduct means standards of conduct required of certain roles (e.g. coaches).

Sexual harassment means unwanted, unwelcome or uninvited behaviour of a sexual nature which makes a person feel humiliated, intimidated or offended. Sexual harassment can take many different forms and may include unwanted physical contact, verbal comments, jokes, propositions, display of pornographic or offensive material or other behaviour that creates a sexually hostile environment.

Sexual harassment is not behaviour based on mutual attraction, friendship and respect. If the interaction is between consenting adults, it is not sexual harassment.

Sexual offence means a criminal offence involving sexual activity or acts of indecency including but

not limited to (due to differences under State/Territory legislation):

- 1 Rape
- 2 Indecent assault
- 3 Sexual assault
- 4 Assault with intent to have sexual intercourse
- 5 Incest
- 6 Sexual penetration of child under the age of 16
- 7 Indecent act with child under the age of 16
- 8 Sexual relationship with child under the age of 16
- 9 Sexual offences against people with impaired mental functioning
- 10 Abduction and detention
- 11 Procuring sexual penetration by threats or fraud
- 12 Procuring sexual penetration of child under the age of 16
- 13 Bestiality
- 14 Soliciting acts of sexual penetration or indecent acts
- 15 Promoting or engaging in acts of child prostitution
- 16 Obtaining benefits from child prostitution
- 17 Possession of child pornography
- 18 Publishing child pornography and indecent articles.

Transgender is a general term applied to individuals and behaviours that differ from the gender role commonly, but not always, assigned at birth. It does not imply any specific form of sexual orientation.

Victimisation means subjecting a person or threatening to subject a person to any detriment or unfair treatment because that person has or intends to pursue their rights to make a complaint under government legislation (e.g. anti-discrimination) or under this policy, or for supporting another person to make a complaint.

Vilification involves a person or organisation doing public acts to incite hatred towards, serious contempt for, or severe ridicule of a person or group of persons having any of the attributes or characteristics within the meaning of discrimination. Public acts that may amount to vilification include any form of communication to the public and any conduct observable by the public.

Young People/person means people in the 13 – 18 year age group.

Background

Child protection is about keeping children safe from harm/abuse. Child abuse is illegal, and all states and territories have their own systems and laws that cover screening and/or the reporting and investigation of cases of child abuse.

Working with Children Check (WWCC) laws aim to prevent people who pose a risk from working with children as paid employees or volunteers. In New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria and South Australia laws require individuals involved in areas such as sport and recreation to undertake a check to determine their suitability to work (in a paid or volunteer capacity) with children. This is done by checking certain criminal history and other matters. In some states this also involves reviewing relevant findings from disciplinary proceedings. There are also requirements placed on organisations.

The Northern Territory government has passed new law and screening will be compulsory from January 2010. The Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania are currently reviewing their screening laws. New requirements and amendments will be added to this policy as they are introduced.

Please be aware that state and territory WWCC requirements may also apply to individuals who visit states with screening laws. For example, if a state association or club takes players U18 into New South Wales for training camps, competition or other activities, those travelling with the teams must comply with NSW law.

The state WWCC requirements apply regardless of our national, state or club *Member Protection Policy*.

- 1 The following attachments provide:
 - summary information on state and territory WWCC requirements and where to obtain more information and relevant forms
 - our Member Protection Declaration (for all states/territories except NSW who must complete a Prohibited Employment Declaration provided by the NSW Commission for Children and Young People)
 - our screening requirements for people residing in ACT and Tasmania

Attachment B1: SCREENING REQUIREMENTS ACT and TASMANIA

This attachment sets out the screening process for people in Croquet who work, coach, supervise or have regular unsupervised contact with people under the age of 18 years.

The Australian Croquet Association will, and also requires state associations and clubs to:

1. Identify positions that involve working, coaching, supervising or regular unsupervised contact with people under the age of 18 years.
2. Obtain a completed *Member Protection Declaration* (MPD) (Attachment B2) from all people who are identified in the above step and keep it in a secure place.
3. Provide an opportunity for a person to give an explanation if a MPD isn't provided or it reveals that the person doesn't satisfactorily meet any of the clauses in the MPD. We will then make an assessment as to whether the person may be unsuitable to work with people under the age of 18 years. If unsatisfied we will not appoint them to the role/position.
4. Where possible, check a person's referees (verbal or written) about his/her suitability for the role.
5. Ask the people identified in step 1 to sign a consent form for a national police check.
6. Possibly request (or ask the person to request) a national 'Part Exclusion' police check from our relevant police jurisdiction. This check excludes irrelevant records. If the police check indicates a relevant offence, we will provide an opportunity for the person to give an explanation, and then we will make an assessment as to whether the person may pose a risk to or be unsuitable to work with people under the age of 18 years. If unsatisfied we will not appoint them to the role/position.
7. Make an assessment as to whether the person may be unsuitable to work with people under the age of 18 years if the person does not agree to a national police check after explaining why it is a requirement under our policy. If unsatisfied, we will not appoint them.
8. Decide whether to offer the person the position taking into account the result of the police check and any other information the club has available to it. Where it is not practical to complete the police check prior to the person commencing in the position, we will complete the check as soon as possible, and if necessary, act immediately on the outcome.
9. Protect the privacy of any person who is checked and maintain confidentiality of any information obtained through the checking process.
10. Return information collected during screening (such as a completed MPD form, police records and referee reports) to the relevant person if that person is not appointed to the position, or otherwise be destroyed within 28 days of the date of the decision or the expiry of any appeal period, unless within that time the person requests that the documents be returned to them. For appointed persons, information will be kept on file in a secure location.

Attachment B2: MEMBER PROTECTION DECLARATION

The Australian Croquet Association has a duty of care to all those associated with the sport at the national level and to the individuals and organisations to whom our national Member Protection Policy applies. As a requirement of our national Member Protection Policy, the Australian Croquet Association or the relevant State Association must enquire into the background of those who undertake any work, coaching or regular unsupervised contact with people under the age of 18 years.

I (name) of

..... (address) born/...../.....

sincerely declare:

1. I do not have any criminal charge pending before the courts.
2. I do not have any criminal convictions or findings of guilt for sexual offences, offences related to children, acts of violence or narcotics.
3. I have not had any disciplinary proceedings brought against me by an employer, sporting organisation or similar body involving child abuse, sexual misconduct or harassment, other forms of harassment, acts of violence or narcotics
4. I am not currently serving a sanction for an anti-doping rule violation under an ASADA approved anti-doping policy applicable to me.
5. I will not participate in, facilitate or encourage any practice prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency Code or any other ASADA approved anti-doping policy applicable to me.
6. To my knowledge there is no other matter that the Australian Croquet Association may consider to constitute a risk to its members, employees, volunteers, athletes or reputation by engaging me.
7. I will notify the President of the organisation(s) engaging me immediately upon becoming aware that any of the matters set out in clauses 1 to 6 above has changed.

Declared in the State/Territory of

on/...../.....(date) Signature

Parent/Guardian Consent (in respect of a person under the age of 18 years)

I have read and understood the declaration provided by my child. I confirm and warrant that the contents of the declaration provided by my child are true and correct in every particular.

Name:.....

Signature:.....

Date:

Attachment B3: WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHILD PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

The following information was updated in April 2009. It is subject to change at any time.

1. QUEENSLAND

A person will need a Working with Children Check, also known as the **blue card**, if they propose to work in a paid or voluntary capacity or to carry on a business in a child-related area regulated by the *Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000*. Once a person is checked and approved they are issued with a "blue card." Volunteers and paid employees employed in sporting organisations generally fall under the 'churches, clubs and associations' category of regulated employment. Volunteers and paid employees employed in private businesses may fall under the 'sport and active recreation' category of regulated employment. The check is a detailed national criminal history check including charges and investigations relating to children.

People such as those with previous convictions involving children are disqualified from applying for or renewing a blue card (refer to website below for details).

A blue card remains current for two years. Existing card holders will be notified by the Queensland Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian before their card expires.

In addition to obligations regarding the blue card, **employers** must develop and implement a written child protection risk management strategy and review it each year.

For more information on the blue card, including current forms:

- www.ccypg.qld.gov.au
- 1800 113 611

2. NEW SOUTH WALES

All organisations within NSW that employ people in child-related employment (in a paid or unpaid capacity) must meet the requirements of the Working with Children Check (WWCC). Child related employment is work which primarily involves direct unsupervised contact with children. The WWCC involves three components:

1. **Ensuring** all paid and unpaid employees sign a [Prohibited Employment Declaration](#) which states they are not prohibited from working with children.
2. **Submitting** all applicants for **paid** employment to NSW Sport and Recreation for a WWCC background check. NSW Sport and Recreation only carries out checks for paid employees.
3. **Reporting** relevant employment proceedings for any paid and unpaid employees to the Commission for Children and Young People. A relevant employment proceeding involves any reportable conduct committed outside of work as well as in the workplace with or in the presence of a child/ren.

Sporting organisations are responsible for managing the WWCC process. Individuals cannot apply for a WWCC directly. Sporting organisations should register with [NSW Sport and Recreation](#), providing a contact who will receive the information on the background checks.

A WWCC is valid for employment in that position within the organisation. Short-term employees (where that person is being employed for periods of less than six months and returning for short periods throughout a 12 month period) only need to be checked **once** every 12 months.

For more information, including the required forms:

- www.kids.nsw.gov.au or 02 9286 7219
- www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/children/resources.asp or 02 9006 3700

3. WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Working with Children Check (WWC Check) is a compulsory and rigorous criminal record check for certain people who carry out 'child-related work' in WA. A person is in 'child-related work' if the usual duties of their work involves, or is likely to involve contact with a child in connection with specified categories of work (see the website below for further details). It includes child-related work carried out by paid employees, volunteers, unpaid people and the self-employed. Parents volunteering in connection with their child's activity are exempt (although this does not apply to overnight camps); however they should still be required to complete the non-WWC Check screening process. There are other exemptions, for example volunteers under 18 years old. Further details

about exemptions can be found on the website below. Only those in child-related work under the Act may apply.

Applicants will be issued with either:

- An Assessment Notice in the form of a WWC Card enabling them to be in all types of child-related work for three years unless there are new offences of concern.
- An Interim Negative Notice, which prohibits them from child-related work until a final decision is made on their application.
- A Negative Notice, which prohibits them from child-related work.

There are set obligations and strong penalties for non-compliance including for employers and volunteer co-coordinators.

For more information:

- www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au or call 1800 883 979 (toll free)

4. VICTORIA

The Working with Children (WWC) Check creates a mandatory minimum checking standard across Victoria. The *Working with Children Act 2005* requires that some people who work or volunteer in child-related work require a WWC Check. The check involves a national police records check and a review of relevant findings from prescribed professional disciplinary bodies (currently only the Victorian Institute of Teaching). There is an exemption for volunteers whose own children are involved in the particular activity; however they should still be required to complete the screening process.

A person who has no criminal or professional disciplinary history will be granted an *assessment notice*. This notice will entitle the person to undertake child-related work in Victoria and is valid for five years (unless revoked). A person deemed unsuitable to work or volunteer with children will be given a *negative notice* and cannot work in [child-related work](#) in Victoria.

For more information:

- www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren or 1300 652 879

5. NORTHERN TERRITORY

From January 2010, all persons employed in child related work, either paid or as a volunteer, must hold a valid clearance notice issued by the SAFE NT Screening Authority. There are penalties for failure to comply. Sports coaches, trainers, team administrators, officials and volunteers of Sporting Organisations that deal with children are caught.

Clearance notices are valid for two years from date of issue unless revoked, and are transferable within employment fields. As a part of the assessment process, SAFE NT will consider the applicant's criminal history record and other relevant information.

For more information contact 1800 SAFE NT (1800 723 368)

Working With Children Child Protection Regulation – South Australia**Position Statements****1. Child Protection**

The South Australian Croquet Association is committed to the safety and well being of all children and young people accessing our service. We support the rights of the child and will act without hesitation to ensure a child safe environment is maintained at all times. We also support the rights and wellbeing of our staff and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants.

The South Australian Croquet Association acknowledges that our staff, members and volunteers provide a valuable contribution to the positive experiences of children involved in our sport. The South Australian Croquet Association aims to continue this and to take measures to protect the safety and welfare of children participating in our sport by:

1.2 Identify and Analyse Risk of Harm

The South Australian Croquet Association will develop and implement a risk management strategy, which includes a review of existing child protection practices, to determine how child-safe and child-friendly the organisation is and to determine what additional strategies are required to minimise and prevent risk of harm to children because of the action of an employee, volunteer or another child.

1.3 Identifying affected positions

The South Australian Croquet Association will conduct an assessment of the criminal history of every person who is, or will be, engaged to work with children in this organisation, its affiliated associations and clubs (unless an exemption applies).

The South Australian Croquet Association has identified all individuals and positions within the organisation that involve working with children.

These positions are all members, volunteers and employees who:

- manage, supervise or are in regular contact or work in close proximity with children at programs
- have access to children's records including those that are supplied by Education, Health or Disability services

List of prescribed positions:

- Coach
- Child Protection Officer
- Membership Database Manager

1.4 Develop Codes of Conduct for Adults and Children

The South Australian Croquet Association will ensure that the organisation implements the Croquet Australia codes of conduct that specify standards of conduct and care when dealing and interacting with children, particularly those in the organisation's care. The organisation will also implement a code of conduct to address appropriate behaviour between children.

The code(s) of conduct set out professional boundaries, ethical behaviour and unacceptable behaviour see Croquet Australia Member Protection policy.

1.5 Choose Suitable Employees and Volunteers

The South Australian Croquet Association will ensure that the organisation takes all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children (in prescribed positions).

This may be achieved using a range of screening measures. Such measures will aim to minimise the likelihood of engaging (or retaining) people who are unsuitable to work with children.

The South Australian Croquet Association will ensure that criminal history assessments are conducted for employees and volunteers working with children, where an assessment is required by law.¹

If a criminal history report is obtained as part of their screening process, the South Australian Croquet Association will ensure that the criminal history information is dealt with in accordance with the standards developed by the Chief Executive, Department for Families and Communities.² (See Part C)

1.6 Support, Train, Supervise and Enhance Performance

¹ Children's Protection Act 1993 Section 8B.

² Families and Communities (2007) *Child Safe Environments: Principles of Good Practice & Suggested Implementation Guidelines and Indicators*. Adelaide: DFC.

The South Australian Croquet Association will ensure that volunteers and employees who work with children or their records have ongoing supervision, support and training such that their performance is developed and enhanced to promote the establishment and maintenance of a child-safe environment.

1.7 Empower and Promote the Participation of Children In Decision-Making And Service Development

The South Australian Croquet Association will promote the involvement and participation of children and young people in developing and maintaining child-safe environments.

1.8 Report and Respond Appropriately To Suspected Abuse and Neglect

The South Australian Croquet Association will ensure that volunteers and employees are able to identify and respond to children at risk of harm.

The South Australian Croquet Association will make all volunteers and employees aware of their responsibilities under the *Children's Protection Act 1993* if they have suspicion on reasonable grounds that a child has been or is being abused or neglected.

In addition to their obligation as a mandated notifier, if any person feels another person or organisation bound by this policy is acting inappropriately towards a child or is breaching the code(s) of practice set out they may make an internal complaint. Please refer to our complaints procedure outlined in attachment [C1] of this policy. This will explain what to do about the behaviour and how the South Australian Croquet Association will deal with the problem.

2. Taking Images of Children

The South Australian Croquet Association acknowledges that in South Australia under the Summary Offences Act 1953 a person must not engage in indecent filming. Images of children and adults should not be used inappropriately or illegally.

The South Australian Croquet Association requires that individuals and associations, wherever possible, obtain permission from a child's parent/guardian before taking an image of a child that is not their own and ensure that the parent knows the way the image will be used. We also require the privacy of others to be respected and disallow the use of camera phones, videos and cameras inside changing areas, showers and toilets.

If the South Australian Croquet Association uses an image of a child it will avoid naming or identifying the child or it will, wherever possible, avoid using both the first name and surname. We will not display personal information such as residential address, email address or telephone numbers without gaining consent from the parent/guardian. We will not display information about hobbies, likes/dislikes, school, etc as this information can be used as grooming tools by pedophiles or other persons. We will only use appropriate images of a child, relevant to our sport and ensure that the child is suitably clothed in a manner that promotes the sport, displays its successes, etc.

3. Procedures

The South Australian Croquet Association will obtain criminal history reports using the following procedures:

3.1. Existing staff:

- 3.1.1 All staff holding a prescribed position must obtain a National Police Certificate by making application to the South Australian Police (or present an appropriate document that is less than three years old).
 - a. The cost of obtaining this check will be paid by the South Australian Croquet Association. A paid employee is not entitled to a free check using the organisations VOAN.]
- 3.1.2 On receipt of the check the original document must be presented to the Child protection Officer.
- 3.1.3 The document will be assessed in accordance with standard C4 (Families SA) and returned to the person as soon as practicable.
- 3.1.4 The criminal history assessment will be repeated every three years or as requested by the Board.

3.2. New Staff:

- 3.2.1. All new staff selected to fill a prescribed position must obtain National Police Certificate by making application to the South Australian Police (or present an appropriate document that is less than three years old).
 - a. The cost of obtaining this check will be paid by the South Australian Croquet Association. A paid employee is not entitled to a free check using the organisations VOAN.]
- 3.2.2 On receipt of the check the original document must be presented to the Child Protection officer.
 - a. Using a 100-point check, the South Australian Croquet Association will establish the true identity of the applicant.

- 3.2.3 The document will be assessed in accordance with standard C4 and returned to the person as soon as practicable.
- 3.2.4 The criminal history assessment will be repeated every three years or as requested by the Board.

3.3 Existing Members and Volunteers:

- 3.3.1 All existing members and volunteers holding a prescribed position must obtain a National Police Check by making application to the South Australian Police (or present an appropriate document that is less than three years old).
 - a. The cost of obtaining this check will be met by using the organisations VOAN.
- 3.3.2 On receipt of the check the original document must be presented to the Child Protection Officer.
- 3.3.3 The document will be assessed in accordance with standard C4 and returned to the person as soon as practicable.
- 3.3.4 The criminal history assessment will be repeated every three years or as requested by the Board.

3.4. New Member and Volunteers:

- 3.4.1 All new members or volunteers selected to fill a prescribed position must obtain National Police Check (or present an appropriate document that is less than three years old) by making application to the South Australian Police.
 - a. The cost of obtaining this check will be met by using the organisations VOAN.
- 3.4.2 On receipt of the check the original document must be presented to the Child Protection Officer.
- 3.4.3 Using a 100-point check, the South Australian Croquet Association will establish the true identity of the applicant.
- 3.4.4 The document will be assessed in accordance with standard C4 and returned to the person as soon as practicable.
- 3.4.5 The criminal history assessment will be repeated every three years or as requested by the Board.

4. Accepting “other evidence”

The South Australian Croquet Association will, in lieu of undertaking a criminal history screening check as set out, accept the following forms of evidence (obtained within the last three years) to assess a person’s suitability to work with children.

- a) A National Police Certificate that does not expressly state that it cannot be used as a clearance to work with children
- b) A Letter of clearance to work with children from a CrimTrac accredited agency: Such as the DFC Screening Unit; Department of Education and Children’s Services (DECS) or Catholic Education Office.
- c) An interstate working with children check, from: Queensland, Victoria or Western Australia.

Acceptance of any of these checks is subject to the person completing a 100-point check, to enable the South Australian Croquet Association to establish the true identity of the applicant.³

The South Australian Croquet Association may also at its discretion seek a statutory declaration for any *employee(s)* or *volunteer(s)* who have been citizens or permanent residents of another country other than Australia since turning 18 years of age.

5. Assessing criminal history information

In the majority of cases, a person will have no criminal history. In these cases, the assessment will be successfully completed and no further action in respect to an assessment will be required.

Offences that indicate a prima-facie risk of harm

The South Australian Croquet Association believes the following categories of criminal convictions present a prima-facie *risk of harm* to children. No person will be considered suitable to be employed, contracted, hired, retained, accepted as a volunteer, or allowed to undertake prescribed functions for the South Australian Croquet Association, its affiliated associations or clubs if he or she has been convicted of:

- murder or sexual assault
- violence in relation to a child

³ A 100-point check should include one primary document such as a Birth Certificate or International Travel Document (e.g. Current Passport) or Citizenship Certificate and must include one secondary document such as a Driver’s Licence, employee identification card, Centrelink card or student identification card.

- an offence relating to child pornography
- an offence involving child prostitution
- a child abuse offence, for example criminal neglect.

The following offences potentially indicate unsuitability to undertake prescribed functions.

The South Australian Croquet Association believes that there can be a presumption that there is a risk of harm to children but further assessment is necessary before a decision to exclude a person can be made.

These types of criminal offences include:

- sexually-motivated offences
- violence offences/assault including any form of assault which has resulted in a sentence of imprisonment
- offences relating to cruelty to animals
- any other offences against a child (including drug offences).

In addition, other criminal offences may be relevant to specific, prescribed functions, including: dishonesty offences, serious drug-related matters or serious traffic offences.

None of these offences will automatically preclude an individual from being engaged to undertake prescribed functions.

Any such person will be asked to make further application to the DFC Screening Unit for a more thorough assessment. This cost of this screening check to be met by the individual.

The decision of this process will be deemed to be final and binding on all parties.

6. Ensuring procedural fairness if a person has a criminal history

6.1 Existing staff, members and volunteers:

6.1.1 All existing staff, members and volunteers will be provided with the opportunity to confirm or dispute the information contained within the National Police Certificate report and to provide contextual information if they wish before the assessment is conducted.

6.1.2 Prior to a decision being made, the South Australian Croquet Association will communicate to the applicant a pending decision not to employ or engage them because of their criminal history and the reasons for this decision.

6.1.3 Staff (who are also members of the South Australian Croquet Association its affiliated associations or clubs), members and volunteers may request:

- that the final assessment be referred to the Screening Unit (if it has not already been done). Which decision shall be final and binding.
- where this has already been done, to make an appeal under the process set out in this policy.
- To be advised of any other avenues of appeal (if applicable).

6.1.4 Existing employees who are not also members of the South Australian Croquet Association, its affiliated associations or clubs may refer to the dispute resolution process set out by the relevant Enterprise Agreement or Industrial Award for dispute resolution.

6.2 New staff, members and volunteers:

6.2.1 New applicants for employment, membership and volunteer positions will be provided with the opportunity to confirm or dispute the information contained within the National Police Certificate report and to provide contextual information if they wish before the assessment is conducted.

6.2.2 The South Australian Croquet Association will communicate to the applicant the decision not to employ or engage them or to accept their application for membership. They will not be provided with the reasons for this decision.

6.2.3 There will be no appeal to this decision.

7. Records management

The South Australian Croquet Association will take specific actions to store and recording information obtained through conducting a criminal history assessment. This includes taking measures to ensure information is protected and confidentially stored and safeguards to protect against loss, unauthorised access, modification, disclosure or other misuse.

Criminal history information will not be retained once a decision has been made regarding the person's suitability to work with children. No criminal history information will be retained beyond three months.

The South Australian Croquet Association will retain the following information regarding their decision:

- That a criminal history report was obtained
- How the criminal history information affected decision making processes
- Statutory declarations (where applicable)

The South Australian Croquet Association will retain appropriate records to demonstrate their

compliance with their legal requirements. The criminal history register and criminal history assessment template (where applicable) will be used to record this information (see attached)

8. Exemptions from the requirement to conduct criminal history assessments

In accordance with guidelines the South Australian Croquet Association has agreed to exempt the following persons from the requirement to undertake a criminal history assessment, unless that person is also involved in a function or event conducted by the South Australian Croquet Association, its affiliated associations or clubs which involves the care of children in overnight accommodation.

- A person volunteering in an activity in which their child ordinarily participates;
- A person who volunteers who is less than 18 years of age;
- A person working or volunteering for a short-term event or activity of less than 10 days duration or for no more than 1 day in any month;
- A person occupying a position in which all work involving children is undertaken in the physical presence of the child's parents or guardians and in which there is ordinarily no physical contact with the children;
- A person who undertakes, or a position that only involves, work that is primarily provided to adults or the community generally and is not provided to any child on an individual basis;
- An organisation that provides equipment, food or venues for children's parties or events but does not provide any other services to children;
- A person who has regular contact with a child as part of an employment relationship with that child (such as a person working alongside a child or supervising an employee who is a child);
- A person who is appointed as a police officer or is a registered teacher. (Police officers and teachers are already subject to comprehensive criminal history assessments as a prerequisite for employment).

9. Handling an allegation of child abuse

9.1 Process for dealing with members charged with, or under investigation for, a criminal offence

This process sets out the procedure that the South Australian Croquet Association will follow in the event that it becomes aware that a member has been charged with, or is being investigated for, a relevant criminal offence.

Guiding Principle

The paramount consideration is the rights, interests and wellbeing of children and their protection from harm.

Procedure

9.1.2 Risk Assessment

In the event that the South Australian Croquet Association becomes aware that a member has been charged with, or is being investigated for, a relevant criminal offence, the managing authority of the South Australian Croquet Association or senior appointed officers shall make a risk assessment of the risk of harm to children and consider taking protective action.

The risk assessment will:

- Be conducted in accordance with the guidelines and principles set out under Standard 5 of the Child Safe Environments: Standards for dealing with information obtained about the criminal history of employees and volunteers who work with children;
- Recognise that an investigation or charge does not mean that the person is guilty and that the matter needs to be resolved through proper legal avenues;
- Consider all matters on an individual basis and include an assessment of all relevant circumstances;
- Provide the member an opportunity to make submissions on whether he or she had been charged with an offence warranting some action, and what action should be taken;
- Be made in accordance with the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. Assessment procedures will be transparent, documented and consistently applied;
- Not compromise any police investigations or evidence.

9.1.3 Outcome

Where the outcome of the risk assessment is that protective action is necessary, the South Australian Croquet Association may:

- Control or supervise contact between the member and children
- Prevent contact between the member and children
- Remove the member from duties until the outcome of the investigation or charge is known;
- Take any other action that is necessary and reasonable in the circumstances.

10. Voluntary removal of member pending outcome of charge or investigation

Where the risk assessment determines that protective action is necessary against a member to safeguard and protect children, The South Australian Croquet Association will give the member the opportunity to voluntarily remove him or herself from activities until the outcome of the charge or investigation is known.

11. Resolution to suspend or remove member

In the event that the member will not voluntarily remove him or herself from activities until the outcome of the charge or investigation is known, the South Australian Croquet Association will put forward a resolution to the committee to suspend or temporarily remove the member.

The outcome of the resolution will be recorded in the committee's minutes and then implemented.

The outcome recorded in the committee minutes will not contain unnecessary information relating to the investigation or charge or identify (directly or indirectly) any junior members.

12. Glossary

Relevant criminal offence: means an offence that indicates a prima-facie risk of harm or that potentially indicates unsuitability to work with children.

Natural justice: means observing the following principles:

- people are entitled to be informed of allegations made against them
- all persons affected by a decision should be given the relevant information to enable an informed submission to be made to the decision-maker or person subsequently reviewing a decision
- during the review of a decision, all persons affected by a decision should have an opportunity to put their case, relevant arguments should be heard, and relevant information should be accessible to all parties decision-makers act fairly and impartially.

Offence that indicates a prima-facie risk of harm: has the same meaning as described under Standard 5 of the **Child Safe Environments: Standards for dealing with information obtained about the criminal history of employees and volunteers who work with children.**

Offence that potentially indicates unsuitability to work with children: Has the same meaning as described under Standard 5 of the Child Safe Environments: Standards for dealing with information obtained about the criminal history of employees and volunteers who work with children.

Member: means a member of the South Australian Croquet Association

Risk assessment in the context of child protection 'refers to a process of evaluating the information received to reach a decision about the risk of harm a person may pose to children'. (**Child Safe Environments: Standards for dealing with information obtained about the criminal history of employees and volunteers who work with children**

<http://www.recsport.sa.gov.au/training-support/CPSE-Strategies>



**The South Australian Croquet Association
Criminal History Assessment Form**

Name of person	
Description of position that the person occupies or will occupy	
The person provided, or consented to providing, acceptable evidence relating to their criminal history <i>(For example, an original or certificate copy report of his/her police certificate, a letter of clearance or an interstate working with children clearance.)</i> See Standards 1 – 4	Yes <i>Record type of evidence accepted (e.g. police certificate, letter of clearance, interstate clearance)</i> No <i>A person who does not provide evidence, or consent to evidence being obtained, is precluded from engagement to work with children in a prescribed position.</i>
Date evidence requested	
Date evidence received	
The police certificate or other evidence disclosed no convictions	
The police certificate or other evidence disclosed a conviction requiring further assessment	
The police certificate or other evidence disclosed convictions that indicate a prima-facie risk of harm See Standard 5	<i>Ensure there is evidence on file regarding the further assessment that was undertaken and the result of the assessment.</i>
The police certificate or other evidence disclosed convictions that potentially indicate a unsuitability to undertake prescribed functions See Standard 5	<i>Ensure there is evidence on file regarding the further assessment that was undertaken and the result of the assessment.</i>

Name of Assessor (s): _____

Position/Title: _____

Signature: _____

Name	Position	Police Certificate Reference Number (or other acceptable evidence)	Date of certificate or other evidence*	Date for renewal**

* This date refers to the day that the police certificate or other evidence was received and not the day the assessment was completed.

** The date of renewal is a maximum of three years from the day the police certificate or other evidence was issued.

PART C: PROCEDURES

To ensure due process, consistency and that the principles of natural justice are followed in all aspects of handling or conducting complaints, allegations, investigations, tribunals and disciplinary measures, the Australian Croquet Association or relevant state association will follow and implement the following procedures:

Attachment C1: COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

A complaint can be about an act, behaviour, omission, situation or decision that someone thinks is unfair, unjustified, unlawful and/or a breach of this policy. Complaints will always vary. They may be about individual or group behaviour; they may be extremely serious or relatively minor; they may be about a single incident or a series of incidents; and the person about who the allegation is made may admit to the allegations or emphatically deny them.

Given all of the variables that can arise, the Australian Croquet Association provides a step-by-step complaint procedure that people may use/enter at any stage. Individuals and organisations to which this policy applies may also pursue their complaint externally under anti-discrimination, child-protection or other relevant legislation.

If at any point in the complaint process the Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) considers that a complainant has **knowingly** made an untrue complaint or the complaint is vexatious or malicious, the matter will be referred to the tribunal for appropriate action. All complaints will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to another person without the complainant's consent except if law requires disclosure or if disclosure is necessary to effectively deal with the complaint.

Step 1

As a first step you (the complainant) should try to sort out the problem with the person or people involved if you feel able to do so.

Step 2

If:

- the first step is not possible/reasonable; or
- you are not sure how to handle the problem by yourself; or
- you just want to talk confidentially about the problem with someone and get some more information about what you can do; or
- the problem continues after you tried to approach the person or people involved; then talk with a Member Protection Information Officer. The Executive Director of the Australian Croquet Association can refer you to an appropriate MPIO at your request. (Each State Association should also have a trained MPIO).

The MPIO will:

- take notes about your complaint with your permission (which the MPIO will keep in a secure and confidential place);
- try to sort out the facts of the problem;
- ask what outcome/how you want the problem resolved and if you need support;
- provide possible options for you to resolve the problem;
- explain how our complaints procedure works;
- act as a support person if you both agree;
- refer you to an appropriate person to help you resolve the problem, if necessary;
- inform the relevant government authorities and/or police if required by law to do so; and
- maintain strict confidentiality.

Step 3

After talking with the MPIO, you may decide:

- there is no problem;
- the problem is minor and you do not wish to take the matter forward;
- to try and work out your own resolution (with or without a support person such as an MPIO); or
- to seek an informal mediated resolution with the help of a third person (such as a mediator or Executive).

If you wish to remain anonymous, the Australian Croquet Association can't assist you to resolve your complaint. We have to follow the principles of natural justice and be fair to both sides. This means that the MPIO or you may be required to provide the person/people you have complained about with full details of the complaint so they have a fair chance to respond to all the allegations.

Step 4

If your complaint is not resolved to your satisfaction, you may:

- make a formal complaint in writing to the MPIO; or
- approach a relevant external agency such as an equal opportunity commission, for advice.

Step 5

If you decide to make a formal complaint in writing under Step 4, the MPIO will refer the matter to the Croquet Australia Hearings Convener or relevant state association, who will on receiving the formal complaint and based on the material you have provided, decide whether:

- the matter meets the criteria for a member protection complaint, and does not constitute an instance of double jeopardy;
- they are the most appropriate person to receive and handle the complaint;
- the nature and seriousness of the complaint warrants a formal resolution procedure. Some complaints may be of a minor and/or purely personal nature with no connection to the activities of the Australian Croquet Association. In these cases, the Hearings Convenor may determine that the complaint does not warrant a formal resolution procedure;
- to appoint a person to investigate the complaint;
- to refer the complaint to an informal or formal mediation session;
- to refer the complaint to a hearings tribunal;
- to refer the matter to the police or other appropriate authority; and/or
- to implement any interim administrative or other arrangements that will apply until the complaint process set out in these Procedures is completed.

In making the decision(s) outlined above, the following will be taken into account:

- whether they have had any personal involvement in the circumstances giving rise to the complaint and, if so, whether their ability to impartially manage the complaint is compromised or may appear to be compromised;
- whether, due to the nature of the complaint, specific expertise or experience may be required to manage the complaint;
- your wishes, and the wishes of the respondent, regarding the manner in which the complaint should be handled;
- whether, due to the nature of the complaint, the relationship between you and the respondent and any other relevant factors, the complaint should be referred (or should not be referred) to informal or formal mediation or to a hearings tribunal. Relevant factors may include an actual or perceived power imbalance between you and the respondent, the nature of any ongoing working relationship between you and the respondent, and the personal attributes of you and the respondent (for example, if one party does not speak English fluently, some of the possible complaints resolution mechanisms may not be appropriate);
- the nature and sensitivity of any information or other material that must be provided by you, the respondent, and any of the other people involved in the complaint;
- whether the facts of the complaint are in dispute; and
- the urgency of the complaint, including the likelihood and the consequences (if the complaint is ultimately proven) that you will be subject to further unacceptable behaviour while the complaint process set out in these Procedures is being conducted.

The person handling your complaint will, to the extent that these steps are necessary:

- get full information from you (the complainant) about your complaint and how you want it resolved (if this information has not already been obtained through earlier steps);
- put the information they've received from you to the person/people you're complaining about and ask them to provide their side of the story;
- decide whether they have enough information to determine whether the matter alleged in your complaint did or didn't happen; and/or
- determine what, if any, further action to take. This action may include disciplinary action in accordance with Attachment C6, appointing a person to investigate the complaint, referring the complaint to an informal or a formal mediation session or a hearings tribunal and/or referring the complaint to the police or other appropriate authority.

Step 6

If:

- a person is appointed to investigate the complaint under **Step 5**, the investigator will conduct the investigation and provide a written report to *the* hearings tribunal who will determine what, if any, further action to take. This action may include a direction to the investigator to make further enquiries and obtain additional information, disciplinary action in accordance with Attachment C6, and referring the complaint to an informal or a formal mediation session, a hearings tribunal and/or the police or other appropriate authority;
- the complaint is referred to an informal or a formal mediation session under **Step 5**, the mediation session will be conducted in accordance with Attachment C2 or as otherwise agreed by you and the respondent;
- the complaint is referred to a hearings tribunal under **Step 5**, the hearing will be conducted in accordance with Attachment C5;
- the complaint is referred to the police or other appropriate authority under **Step 5**, the Australian Croquet Association or relevant state association will use its best endeavours to provide all reasonable assistance lawfully required by the police or other appropriate authority; and
- interim administrative or other arrangements are implemented under **Step 5**, the Australian Croquet Association or relevant state association will periodically review these arrangements to ensure that they are effective.

Any costs relating to the complaint process set out in this Policy (e.g. investigation and/or mediation and/or hearings tribunal) are to be met by the Australian Croquet Association or the relevant State Association. Each party to the process shall bear their own costs in relation to the hearing.

Step 7

If, under **Step 6**, an informal or formal mediation session is conducted, and you and the respondent(s) cannot reach a mutually acceptable mediated solution to the complaint, you may request that the MPIO request that the Hearings Convener reconsider the complaint in accordance with **Step 5**.

You or the respondent(s) may be entitled to appeal where:

- under **Step 5**, a decision was made:
 - not to take any action; or
 - to take disciplinary action; or
- under **Step 6**, a decision was made by a hearings tribunal:
 - not to take any action; or
 - to take disciplinary action.

The grounds for appeal and the process for appeals under this Policy are set out in Attachment C5.

If the internal complaints processes set out in this Policy do not achieve a satisfactory resolution/outcome for you, or if you believe it would be impossible to get an impartial resolution within the Australian Croquet Association or relevant state association you may choose to approach an external agency such as an equal opportunity commission to assist with a resolution.

Step 8

The person handling your complaint will document the complaint, the process followed and the outcome. This document will be stored in a confidential and secure place. If the complaint was dealt with at a state/district level, the information will be stored in the state association office. If the matter is of a serious nature, or if the matter was escalated to and/or dealt with at the national level, the original document will be stored at the national office with a copy stored at the state office.

External procedure

There may be a range of external options available to you depending on the nature of your complaint. If you feel that you have been harassed or discriminated against, you can seek advice from your State or Territory equal opportunity commission without being obliged to make a formal complaint. If the commission advises you that the problem appears to be a type of harassment that comes within its jurisdiction, you may then make a decision as to whether or not to lodge a formal complaint with the commission.

Once a complaint is received by an anti-discrimination commission, an investigation will be conducted. If it appears that unlawful harassment or discrimination has occurred, there will usually be an attempt to conciliate the complaint confidentially first. If this fails, or is inappropriate, the complaint may go to a formal hearing where a finding will be made as to whether unlawful harassment or discrimination occurred. The tribunal will decide upon what action, if any, will be taken. This could include financial compensation for such things as distress, lost earnings or medical and counselling expenses incurred.

An anti-discrimination commission can decline to investigate a complaint, or dismiss a complaint at any point in the investigation, conciliation or public hearing stages.

If you do lodge a complaint under anti-discrimination law, you may use an appropriate person (e.g. an MPIO) as a support person throughout the process. It is also common to have a legal representative, particularly at the hearing stage of a complaint.

Attachment C2: MEDIATION

Mediation is a process by which people who are in conflict can be helped to communicate with each other about what is important for them and how to make decisions about resolving their dispute. Mediators provide a supportive atmosphere and method of talking to one another, to assist in sorting out the issues, coming up with acceptable solutions and making mutually satisfactory agreements.

This attachment outlines the general procedure of mediation that will be followed by the Australian Croquet Association or relevant state association.

1. The people involved in a formal complaint (complainant and respondent(s)) may work out their own resolution of the complaint or seek the assistance of a neutral third person or a mediator. Mediation may occur either before or after an investigation of the complaint.
2. Mediation (getting those involved to come to a joint agreement about how the complaint should be resolved) will only be recommended:
 - a. After the complainant and respondent have had their chance to tell their version of events to the MPIO on their own; and
 - b. MPIO does not believe that any of the allegations warrant any form of disciplinary action - proven serious allegations will not be mediated, no matter what the complainant desires; and
 - c. Mediation looks like it will work (i.e. the versions given by the complainant and respondent tally or almost tally and/or at the very least, it looks as though it will be possible for each party to understand the other party's point of view).
3. Mediation will **not** be recommended if:
 - a. The respondent has a completely different version of the events and they won't deviate from these;
 - b. The complainant or respondent are unwilling to attempt mediation; or
 - c. Due to the nature of the complaint, the relationship between you and the respondent(s) and any other relevant factors, the complaint is not suitable for mediation.
4. If mediation is chosen to try and resolve the complaint, the MPIO will advise the Australian Croquet Association or relevant state association and that association will, in consultation with the complainant and the respondent(s), arrange for a mediator to mediate the complaint.
5. The Australian Croquet Association or relevant state body will notify the respondent(s) that a formal complaint has been made, provide them with details of the complaint and notify them the Australian Croquet Association or relevant state association has decided to refer the matter to mediation to resolve the complaint.

6. The mediator's role is to assist the complainant and respondent(s) reach an agreement on how to resolve the problem. The mediator, in consultation with the complainant and respondent(s), will choose the procedures to be followed during the mediation. At a minimum, an agenda of issues for discussion will be prepared by the mediator.
7. The mediation will be conducted confidentially and without prejudice to the rights of the complainant and the respondent(s) to pursue an alternative process if the complaint is not resolved.
8. At the end of a successful mediation the mediator will prepare a document that sets out the agreement reached between the complainant and respondent(s) and it will be signed by them as their agreement.
9. If the formal complaint is not resolved by mediation, the complainant may:
 - a. Write to the President of the Association to request that the President reconsider the complaint in accordance with **Step 5**; or
 - b. Approach an external agency such as an anti-discrimination commission.

Attachment C3: INVESTIGATION PROCESS

If an investigation needs to be conducted the following steps are to be followed:

1. A written brief will be provided to the investigator to ensure the terms of engagement and scope of the investigator's role and responsibilities are clear.
2. The complainant will be interviewed and the complaint documented in writing.
3. The details of the complaint will be conveyed to the person/people complained about (respondent(s)) in full. The respondent(s) must be given sufficient information to enable them to properly respond to the complaint.
4. The respondent(s) will be interviewed and given the opportunity to respond. The respondent(s) response to the complaint will be documented in writing.
5. If there is a dispute over the facts, then statements from witnesses and other relevant evidence will be obtained to assist in a determination.
6. The investigator will make a finding as to whether the complaint is:
 - substantiated (there is sufficient evidence to support the complaint);
 - inconclusive (there is insufficient evidence either way);
 - unsubstantiated (there is sufficient evidence to show that the complaint is unfounded); and/or
 - mischievous, vexatious or knowingly untrue.
7. A report documenting the complaint, investigation process, evidence, finding and, if requested, recommendations, will be given to the hearings tribunal.
8. A report documenting the complaint and summarising the investigation process and key points that were found to be substantiated, inconclusive, unsubstantiated and/or mischievous will be provided to the complainant and the respondent(s).
9. Both the complainant and the respondent(s) are entitled to support throughout this process from their chosen support person/adviser (e.g. MPIO or other person).
10. The complainant and the respondent(s) may have the right to appeal against any decision based on the investigation. Information on our appeals process is in Attachment C5.

More detailed information on conducting internal investigations can be found at http://www.ausport.gov.au/supporting/ethics/policy_and_resources/hfs

Attachment C4: INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE - CHILD ABUSE

An allegation of child abuse is a very serious matter and must be handled with a high degree of sensitivity. The initial response to a complaint that a child has allegedly been abused should be immediate if the incident/s are serious or criminal in nature while less serious/urgent allegations should be actioned as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours.

The following is a basic outline of the key processes to follow. More information can be obtained from your relevant State or Territory government agency.

Step 1 - Clarify basic details of the allegation

- Any complaints, concerns or allegations of child abuse should be made or referred to MPIO.
- The initial response of the person that receives the complaint from the child (or person on behalf of the child) is crucial to the well-being of the child. It is important for the person receiving the information to:
 - Listen to, be supportive and do not dispute what the child says;
 - Reassure the child that what has occurred is not the fault of the child;
 - Ensure the child is safe;
 - Be honest with the child and explain that other people may need to be told in order to stop what is happening; and
 - Ensure that what the child says is quite clear but do not elicit detailed information about the abuse. You should avoid suggestive or leading questions.
- The person receiving the complaint should obtain and clarify basic details (if possible) such as:
 - Child's name, age and address;
 - Person's reason for suspecting abuse (observation, injury or other); and
 - Names and contact details of all people involved, including witnesses.

Step 2 – Report allegations of a serious or criminal nature

- Any individual or organisation to which this policy applies, **should immediately report any incident of a serious or a criminal nature to the police and other appropriate authority.**
- If the allegation involves a child at risk of harm, the incident should immediately be reported to the police or other appropriate government agency. You may need to report to both the police and the relevant government agency.
- The relevant State or Territory authority should be contacted for advice if there is **any** doubt about whether the complaint should be reported.
- If the child's parent/s are suspected of committing the abuse, report the allegation to the relevant government agency.

Step 3 – Protect the child

- The MPIO should assess the risks and take interim action to ensure the child's/children's safety. Some options that the Australian Croquet Association could implement include redeployment of the alleged offender to a non-child related position, supervision of the alleged offender or removal/suspension from their duties until the allegations are finally determined. [Please be aware it is not the MPIO's role to actually undertake action such as redeploying someone – an MPIO should only recommend possible actions].
- The MPIO should also address the support needs of the person against whom the complaint is made. Supervision of the person should ideally occur with the knowledge of the person. If stood down, it should be made clear to all parties that are aware of the incident that this does not mean the person is guilty and a proper investigation still needs to be undertaken.

Step 4 – Further clarify and investigate allegation

- Seek advice from the police and relevant government agency as to whether the Australian Croquet Association should carry out its own internal investigation (in addition to or in conjunction with any police or relevant government agency investigation).
- If the police and/or relevant government agency advises that it is appropriate, then appoint an independent person (where possible) with appropriate expertise to conduct an investigation. The investigator should:
 - Contact the parents/carers of the child at an appropriate time and as directed by the police or relevant government agency.

- If appropriate, meet with parents/carers and the child to clarify the incident and offer support on behalf of the Australian Croquet Association if required (example, professional counselling).
- Meet with the person against whom the allegation refers at an appropriate time and as directed by the relevant authority and give the person an opportunity to explain or respond to the allegation and identify any witnesses and supporting evidence. The person should have an opportunity to invite a support person/adviser to attend at a meeting and should be offered support (example, professional counselling) if necessary.
- Obtain a signed statement and record of interview from the person.
- Make contact with any witnesses and obtain written and signed statements outlining details of the allegation (what happened, when, how). This should only occur following advice from the relevant authority.
- Obtain other information that could assist in making a decision on the allegation.
- The information collected during the investigation should be made available to the relevant authorities.
- Strict confidentiality, impartiality, fairness and due process must be maintained at all times.

Step 5 – Record and analyse all information

- If an internal investigation was conducted under **Step 4**, the investigator will provide a report to the Hearing Tribunal.
- The decision-maker(s) will be the hearing tribunal of the Australian Croquet Association and will remain separate and at arm's length from the investigator.
- The hearing Tribunal will consider all the information and determine a finding. It will also recommend action and its rationale for the action.

Step 6 – Undertake disciplinary action

- For incidents of a serious or criminal nature, consideration must be given to the findings of the police and/or the government agency before making a decision on disciplinary proceedings.
- If disciplinary action is to be taken, follow the procedures outlined in Attachment C6 of the policy.
- Implement any disciplinary decision recommended by the hearing Tribunal. The action should be immediate.
- Check with the relevant state government authority to see if you need to forward a report (e.g. the NSW Commission for Children and Young People requires notification of relevant employment proceedings).
- Complete the E3 report form in Part E of this policy. Retain the original in a secure place and forward a copy to the President of the Australian Croquet Association.

Attachment C5: HEARINGS & APPEALS TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

The following Tribunal Hearing Procedure will be followed by hearings tribunals established by the Australian Croquet Association or relevant state association.

Tribunal Formation and Notification

1. Where the Hearings Convenor determines that a formal complaint should be referred to a Hearings Tribunal, the Hearings Convenor shall make arrangements to appoint the members of the Hearings Tribunal. The Tribunal Panel shall comprise:
 - 1.1 a barrister or solicitor (or if unavailable a person with considerable experience in the legal aspects of a disciplinary/hearings tribunal) who shall be the Chairperson;
 - 1.2 a person with a thorough knowledge of the sport;
 - 1.3 one other person with appropriate experience and skills.
2. The Hearings Convener will organise for a Tribunal to be convened by notifying Tribunal Panel members that they are required to hear a complaint. The Tribunal Panel members will be provided with a copy of all the relevant correspondence, reports or information received and sent by the MPIO relating to the complaint/allegations.
3. The Tribunal Hearing will be scheduled as soon as practicable, but must allow adequate time for the person being complained about (respondent(s)) to prepare to respond to the complaint.
4. The number of Tribunal Panel members required to be present throughout the Tribunal Hearing Process will be three.
 - 4.1 The Tribunal Panel will not include any person who has any actual or perceived conflict of interest, preconceived opinions, vested interests or personal involvement relating to the complaint.
 - 4.2 The Tribunal Panel will comprise at least one person who has knowledge, and preferably experience, of any relevant laws relating to the complaint (e.g. anti-harassment).
 - 4.3 If a member of the Tribunal Panel cannot continue once the Tribunal Hearing has commenced, and the minimum number required for the Tribunal Hearing is still maintained, the discontinuing member will not be replaced.
 - 4.4 If the specific or minimum number is not maintained, the discontinuing member may be replaced if it is considered appropriate by the Tribunal Chairperson. Factors to consider should include the circumstances of the complaint and the ability of the new Tribunal Panel member to be reasonably and impartially informed of the hearing evidence up until the time of their appointment. If the Tribunal Chairperson believes it is not appropriate for a new Tribunal Panel member to be appointed then the Tribunal will be rescheduled to a later date. The Tribunal Chairperson will inform the Hearings Convener of the need to reschedule, and the Hearings Convener will organise for the Tribunal Hearing, with a new Tribunal Panel to be reconvened.
5. The Hearings Convener will inform the respondent(s) by written notification that a tribunal hearing will take place. The written notification will outline:
 - That wherever possible the person will be given an opportunity to appear at the tribunal hearing to defend the complaint/allegation;
 - Details of the complaint, including any relevant rules or regulations they are accused of breaching (if there is more than one complaint these should be set out separately);
 - The date, time and venue of the tribunal hearing;
 - That they can make either verbal or written submissions to the Tribunal;
 - That they may arrange for witnesses to attend the Tribunal in support of their position;
 - An outline of any possible penalties that may be imposed if the complaint is found to be true; and
 - That legal representation will not be allowed.
 - A copy of any information / documents that have been given to the Tribunal (e.g. investigation report findings) will also be provided to the respondent.

The respondent(s) will be allowed to participate in all Australian Croquet Association or relevant state association activities and events, pending the decision of the Tribunal, including any available appeal process, unless the MPIO believes it is warranted to exclude the respondent(s) from all or some of the Association's activities and events, after considering the nature of the complaint.

6. The Hearings Convener will inform the person making the complaint (complainant) by written notification that a tribunal hearing will take place. The written notification will outline:
 - That wherever possible the person will be given an opportunity to appear at the tribunal hearing to support their complaint;
 - Details of the complaint, including any relevant rules or regulations they are accused of breaching (if there is more than one complaint these should be set out separately);
 - The date, time and venue of the tribunal hearing;
 - That they can make either verbal or written submissions to the Tribunal;
 - That they may arrange for witnesses to attend the Tribunal in support of their position; and
 - That legal representation will not be allowed.
 - A copy of any information / documents that have been given to the Tribunal (e.g. investigation report findings) will also be provided to the complainant.
 - Each party to the hearing shall bear their own costs in relation to the hearing.
 - No party to the hearing may be represented by barrister or solicitor. However, the Chairperson of the Hearings Tribunal may grant leave for a party to the hearing to be represented by a barrister or solicitor where their livelihood or proprietary is at risk. A party may be represented by an advocate who is not a barrister or solicitor at the hearing.
7. If the complainant believes the details of the complaint are incorrect or insufficient they should inform the MPIO as soon as possible so that the respondent and the Tribunal Panel members can be properly informed of the complaint.

Tribunal Hearing Procedure

8. The following people will be allowed to attend the Tribunal Hearing:
 - The Tribunal Panel members;
 - The respondent(s);
 - The complainant;
 - Any witnesses called by the respondent;
 - Any witnesses called by the complainant;
 - Any parent / guardian or support person required to support the respondent or the complainant.
9. The Tribunal Chairperson will call the hearing to order at the designated time and determine if the respondent(s) is present.
10. If the respondent(s) is not present and the Tribunal Chairperson considers that no valid reason has been presented for their absence, the Tribunal Hearing will continue subject to the Tribunal Chairperson being satisfied that all Tribunal notification requirements have been carried out correctly.
11. If the Tribunal Chairperson considers that a valid reason for the non-attendance of the respondent(s) is presented, or the Tribunal Chairperson does not believe the Tribunal notification requirements have been carried out correctly, then the Tribunal Hearing will be rescheduled to a later date.
12. The Tribunal Chairperson will inform the organiser of the Tribunal of the need to reschedule, and that person will through the relevant national or state association, organise for the Tribunal Hearing to be reconvened.
13. The Tribunal Chairperson will read out the complaint that is to be judged, ask the respondent(s) if they understand the complaint being made against them, and if they agree or disagree with the complaint.
14. If the person agrees with the complaint, they will be asked to provide any evidence or witnesses that should be considered by the Tribunal Panel when determining any disciplinary measures.

15. If the person disagrees with the complaint, the complainant will be asked to describe the circumstances that lead to the complaint being made.
 - Brief notes may be referred to.
 - The complainant will be allowed to call witnesses.
 - The respondent(s) may be allowed to question the complainant and their witnesses.
16. The respondent(s) will then be asked to respond to the complaint.
 - Brief notes may be referred to.
 - The respondent will be allowed to call witnesses.
 - The complainant may be allowed to ask questions of the respondent and their witnesses.
17. Both the complainant and respondent will be allowed to be present when evidence is presented to the Tribunal. Witnesses may be asked to wait outside the Tribunal Hearing until required.
18. The Tribunal will be allowed to:
 - consider any evidence, and in any form, that it deems relevant.
 - question any person giving evidence.
 - limit the number of witnesses presented if it is agreed by all parties that they will support the person who requested them, but will not provide any new evidence.
19. Video evidence, if available, may be presented. The arrangements must be made entirely by the person/s wishing to offer this type of evidence.
20. If the Tribunal considers that at any time during the Tribunal Hearing that there is any unreasonable or intimidatory behaviour from anyone allowed to be present, the Tribunal Chairperson shall have the power to stop any further involvement of the person in the Tribunal Hearing.
21. After all of the evidence has been presented the Tribunal Panel will make its decision in private. If the Tribunal believes the complaint has been substantiated on the balance of probabilities (i.e. more probable than not), the respondent will then be given an opportunity to address the Tribunal Panel and make a submission on any disciplinary measures that may be imposed. Only those disciplinary measures outlined in the Australian Croquet Association's Constitution/Member Protection Policy will be considered. Any disciplinary measure imposed must be reasonable in the circumstances.
22. All decisions made by the Tribunal will be based on a majority vote.
23. The Tribunal Chairperson will announce the decision in the presence of all those involved in the hearing and will declare the hearing closed.
24. Within 48 hours, the Tribunal Chairperson will:
 - 24.1 Forward to the Hearings Convener and the complainant a copy of the tribunal decision including any disciplinary measures imposed.
 - 24.2 Forward a letter to the respondent(s) reconfirming the Tribunal's decision and any disciplinary measures imposed. The letter should also outline, if allowed, the process and grounds for an appeal to be made.

Appeals Procedure

25. Any party to a hearing held under **Step 7** (including an organisation) may appeal a decision of a Hearing Tribunal on the grounds that natural justice has not been provided.
- 25A Where a complaint is rejected under Step 5 by the Hearings Convenor of the ACA or of a member association, on the grounds that it does not meet the criteria for a member protection complaint, or that it does not warrant a formal resolution procedure, the complainant may within 72 hours notify in writing their intention to lodge a formal written appeal to the ACA.
- 25B The grounds for an appeal under clause 25A must be submitted to the ACA in writing within one week of lodging the notification of intention to appeal. The grounds are limited to the following:
 - (i) if the Hearings Convenor had determined that the complaint does not meet the criteria for a member protection complaint, the grounds for appeal are limited to proving that the complaint does in fact meet one or more of those criteria;
 - (ii) if the Hearings Convenor had determined that the complaint does not warrant a formal resolution procedure, the grounds for appeal are limited to proving that the complaint is of such a serious nature that it should be heard by a Hearings Tribunal.

- 25C An appeal under clause 25A shall be heard by an ACA Hearings Tribunal which shall be constituted of a single member, being a barrister or solicitor (or if unavailable a person with considerable experience in the legal aspects of a disciplinary/hearings tribunal).
- 25D The decision of the Tribunal in relation to an appeal under clause 25A shall be final and no further avenue of appeal shall be available. The provisions of clauses 28 to 33 inclusive apply insofar as they are relevant to an appeal under clause 25A and insofar as they are not inconsistent with clauses 25A-25D.
26. An appeal shall be made to the following Appeal Body:
- (a) an appeal against a decision of a Hearing Tribunal established by a Member State shall be made to the Hearing Tribunal of the Australian Croquet Association, provided the complainant and the Member State agree or to the appeal division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Oceania Registry) ("CAS"), (referred to as the "Appeal Body");
 - (b) an appeal against a decision of a Hearing Tribunal established by the Australian Croquet Association, shall be made to the appeal division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Oceania Registry) ("CAS"), (referred to as the "Appeal Body").
27. There is only one right of appeal following the decision of the initial Hearing Tribunal. Any appeal must be solely and exclusively resolved by the Appeal Body and the decision of such Appeal Body is final and binding on the parties. It is agreed that no party to such appeal may institute or maintain proceedings in any court or tribunal other than the relevant Appeal Body.

Note: This provision does not prevent any person or organisation taking action under State, Territory or Federal Legislation.

28. The process for such appeal is as follows:
- (a) the party wishing to appeal ("the Appellant") shall within 72 hours of the Hearings Tribunal delivering its decision:
 - (i) in the case of an appeal from a Member State, advise in writing, the Hearings Convenor of the Australian Croquet Association of their intention to appeal; or
 - (ii) in the case of an appeal to CAS from a decision of a Hearings Tribunal established by the Australian Croquet Association, complete and file an application to appeal with CAS in accordance with the Code of Sports Related Arbitration; and ("Notice of Intention to Appeal");
 - (b) for an appeal to the Australian Croquet Association, as soon as possible after receipt of the Notice of Intention to Appeal, the Hearings Convenor of the Australian Croquet Association shall appoint a Hearings Tribunal to hear and determine the appeal, which shall comprise of persons in accordance with clause C5 point 1 and
 - (c) within 5 days of lodging the Notice of Intention to Appeal, (or such shorter time as determined by the Appeal Body if there is urgency) the Appellant shall:
 - (i) pay the appeal fee to the Hearings Convenor of the Australian Croquet Association, which shall be \$550 (including GST) which is non-refundable, or in the case of an appeal to CAS, the fee as per the Code of Sports-Related Arbitration applicable to CAS; and
 - (ii) submit to the Hearings Convenor of the Australian Croquet Association or CAS (as the case may be), four written copies of the grounds of appeal. The Hearings Convenor of the Australian Croquet Association shall provide a copy of the grounds of appeal to the other party, to the Hearings Convenor of the organisation which established the Hearings Tribunal who made the decision which is the subject of the appeal and the Chairperson of the Appeal Body. If either of the requirements in this subclause is not met by the due time the appeal shall be deemed to be withdrawn;
 - (d) on completion of the procedures in (a) to (c), the Hearings Convenor of the Australian Croquet Association or the Chairperson of CAS (as the case may be) shall determine a place, time and date for the hearing of the appeal and as soon as possible thereafter notify all parties to the appeal in writing of such details; and (e) the procedure for the appeal shall be the same as the procedure for the Hearings Tribunal set out in C5 except where the Appeal Body is CAS, in which case the Code of Sports-Related Arbitration shall apply.
29. The Appeal Body may reject an appeal on the basis that the grounds of appeal are not satisfied.
30. Upon hearing the appeal, the Appeal Body may do any one or more of the following:
- (a) dismiss the appeal;
 - (b) uphold the appeal;
 - (c) impose any of the penalties set out in C6;
 - (d) reduce, increase or otherwise vary any penalty imposed by the initial Hearings Tribunal.
31. If the penalty imposed by the Appeal Body affects other organisations required to comply with this Policy, the Hearings Convenor of the Australian Croquet Association shall as soon as possible notify in writing the relevant organisation of the penalty. Every organisation to which this Policy applies shall recognise and enforce any decision and penalty imposed by an Appeal Body under this Policy.

32. The Appeal Body has no power to award costs and each party shall bear their own costs in relation to any appeal.
33. To the extent of any inconsistency between the hearing appeal procedure set out in the Australian Croquet Association's Constitution or the Constitution of Member States and the hearing appeal procedure set out in this Policy, this Policy shall prevail in relation to all Complaints under this Policy

Attachment C6: DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Any disciplinary measure imposed by hearings tribunal under this policy must:

- **Observe any contractual and employment rules and requirements;**
- **Conform to the principles of natural justice;**
- **Be fair and reasonable;**
- **Be based on the evidence and information presented;**
- **Be within the powers of the hearings tribunal to impose the disciplinary measure.**

Individual

Subject to contractual and employment requirements, if a finding is made that an individual has breached the Australian Croquet Association's Member Protection Policy (including the Codes of Conduct), one or more of the following forms of discipline may be imposed by the hearings tribunal:

1. A direction that the individual make a verbal and/or written apology;
2. A written warning;
3. A direction that the individual attend counselling to address their behaviour;
4. A withdrawal of any awards, placings, records, achievements bestowed in any tournaments, activities or events held or sanctioned by the Australian Croquet Association;
5. A demotion or transfer of the individual to another location, role or activity;
6. A suspension of the individual's membership or participation or engagement in a role or activity;
7. Termination of the individual's membership, appointment or engagement;
8. Recommend that the Australian Croquet Association terminate the individual's membership, appointment or engagement;
9. In the case of a coach or official, a direction that the relevant organisation de-register the accreditation of the coach or official for a period of time or permanently;
10. Any other form of discipline that is considered appropriate.

When imposing any form of discipline, it will be accompanied by a warning that a similar breach of policy by that individual in the future may result in the imposition of a more serious form of discipline.

Organisations

If a finding is made that the Australian Croquet Association's member or affiliated organisation has breached the Australian Croquet Association's Member Protection Policy (including the Codes of Conduct), one or more of the following forms of discipline may be imposed by hearings tribunal:

1. A written warning;
2. A monetary fine;
3. A direction that any rights, privileges and benefits provided to that organisation by the national body or other peak association be suspended for a specified period;
4. A direction that any funding granted or given to it by the national body cease from a specified date;
5. A direction that the national body cease to sanction events held by or under the auspices of that organisation;
6. A recommendation to the national body that its membership of the association be suspended or terminated in accordance with the relevant constitution or rules; and/or
7. Any other form of discipline that the national body or peak organisation considers appropriate.

When imposing any form of discipline, it will be accompanied by a warning that a similar breach of policy by the organisation in the future may result in more serious form of discipline.

Factors to consider when imposing discipline

The form of discipline to be imposed on an individual or organisation will depend on factors such as:

- Nature and seriousness of the behaviour or incidents;

- In a case where action is taken concurrently with or in lieu of a resolution of a formal complaint, the wishes of the complainant;
- If the individual concerned knew or should have known that the behaviour was a breach of the policy;
- Level of contrition of the respondent(s);
- The effect of the proposed disciplinary measures on the respondent(s) including any personal, professional or financial consequences;
- If there have been relevant prior warnings or disciplinary action; and/or
- If there are any mitigating circumstances such that the respondent(s) should not be disciplined at all or not disciplined so seriously.

PART D: ROLE-SPECIFIC CODES OF CONDUCT

As a member association or an affiliated club or a person required to comply with the Member Protection Policy you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by the Australian Croquet Association, a member association or an affiliated club, and in any role you hold within the Australian Croquet Association, a member association, or an affiliated club:

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.
2. Be fair, considerate and honest in all dealing with others.
3. Be professional in, and accept responsibility for, your actions.
4. Make a commitment to providing quality service.
5. Be aware of, and maintain an uncompromising adherence to, croquet's standards, rules, regulations and policies.
6. Operate within the rules of the Australian Croquet Association including national and international guidelines which govern the Australian Croquet Association, the member associations and the affiliated clubs.
7. Do not use your involvement with the Australian Croquet Association, a member association or an affiliated club to promote your own beliefs, behaviours or practices where these are inconsistent with those of the Australian Croquet Association, a member association or an affiliated club.
8. Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.
9. Avoid unaccompanied and unobserved activities with persons under 18 years of age, wherever possible.
10. Refrain from any form of harassment of others.
11. Refrain from any behaviour that may bring the Australian Croquet Association, a member association or an affiliated club into disrepute.
12. Provide a safe environment for the conduct of the activity.
13. Show concern and caution towards others who may be sick or injured.
14. Be a positive role model.
15. Understand the repercussions if you breach, or are aware of any breaches of, this code of behaviour.

Attachment D1: Coach Code of Conduct

In addition to *the Australian Croquet Association's* General Code of Behaviour, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by the *Australian Croquet Association*, a member association or an affiliated club and in your role as a coach appointed by the *Australian Croquet Association*, a member association or an affiliated club:

1. Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
2. Provide feedback to players and other participants in a manner sensitive to their needs. Avoid overly negative feedback.
3. Recognise players' rights to consult with other coaches and advisers. Cooperate fully with other specialists (for example, sports scientists, doctors and physiotherapists).
4. Treat all players fairly within the context of their sporting activities, regardless of gender, race, place of origin, athletic potential, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, socio-economic status and other conditions.
5. Encourage and facilitate players' independence and responsibility for their own behaviour, performance, decisions and actions.
6. Involve the players in decisions that affect them.
7. Encourage players to respect one another and to expect respect for their worth as individuals regardless of their level of play.
8. Ensure that the tasks and/or training set are suitable for age, experience, ability, and physical and psychological conditions of the players.
9. Ensure any physical contact with players is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
10. Be acutely aware of the power that you as a coach develop with your players in the coaching relationship and avoid any sexual intimacy with players that could develop as a result.
11. Avoid situations with your players that could be construed as compromising.
12. Actively discourage the use of performance enhancing drugs, and the use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances.
13. Do not exploit any coaching relationship to further personal, political or business interests at the expense of the best interest of your players.
14. Accept and respect the role of officials in ensuring that competitions are conducted fairly and according to established rules.
15. Know and abide by rules, regulations and standards, and encourage players to do likewise. Accept both the letter and the spirit of the rules.
16. Be honest and ensure that qualifications are not misrepresented.

Attachment D2: Official Code of Conduct

In addition to *the Australian Croquet Association's* General Code of Behaviour, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by *the Australian Croquet Association*, a member association or an affiliated club and in your role as an official appointed by *the Australian Croquet Association*, a member association or an affiliated club:

1. Place the safety and welfare of the players/participants above all else.
2. Accept responsibility for all actions taken.
3. Be impartial.
4. Avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest.
5. Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction.
6. Value the individual in sport.

Attachment D3: Player/Participant Code of Conduct

In addition to *the Australian Croquet Association's* General Code of Behaviour, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by *the Australian Croquet Association*, a member association or an affiliated club and in your role as a player/participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of *the Australian Croquet Association*, a member association or an affiliated club:

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow players, coaches, officials and spectators.
2. Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
3. Respect the talent, potential and development of fellow players and competitors.
4. Care for and respect the equipment provided to you as part of your program.
5. Be frank and honest with your coach concerning illness and injury and your ability to train fully within the program requirements.
6. At all times avoid intimate relationships with your coach.
7. Conduct yourself in a professional manner relating to language, temper and punctuality.
8. Maintain high personal behaviour standards at all times.

Attachment D4: Administrator (Volunteer) Code of Conduct

In addition to the *Australian Croquet Association's* General Code of Behaviour, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held by or under the auspices of the *Australian Croquet Association*, a member association or an affiliated club and in your role as an administrator of the *Australian Croquet Association*, a member association or an affiliated club:

1. Resolve conflicts fairly and promptly through established procedures.
2. Maintain strict impartiality.
3. Be aware of your legal responsibilities

Attachment D5: Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

As a parent/guardian of a player/participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of the Australian Croquet Association, a member association or an affiliated club, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any such activity or event:

- 1 Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.
2. Remember that your child participates in sport for their own enjoyment, not yours.
3. Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
4. Never ridicule or yell at your child and other children for making a mistake or losing a competition.
5. Show appreciation for good performance and skilful plays by all players (including opposing players).
6. Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with or in the vicinity of persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.
7. Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.

Attachment D6: Spectator Code of Conduct

As a spectator in any activity held by or under the auspices of the *Australian Croquet Association*, a member association or an affiliated club, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any such activity or event:

1. Respect the decisions of officials and teach young people to do the same.
2. Never ridicule or scold a young player for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.
3. Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by other spectators, coaches, officials or players.
4. Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
5. Do not use violence, harassment or abuse in any form (that is, do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches, officials or other spectators).
6. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

PART E: REPORTING DOCUMENTS/FORMS

To assist in consistency and accuracy in following procedure and reporting on the issues covered by the Australian Croquet Association's Member Protection Policy the following documents are to be used:

- E1 Confidential Record of informal complaint – **to be used by MPIOs or others who receive a complaint or allegation.**
- E2 Confidential Record of Formal Complaint – **to be used when a formal complaint is received by the Australian Croquet Association or relevant state association.**
- E3 Confidential Record of Child Abuse Allegation – **to be used by MPIOs or others who receive complaints/allegations of child abuse.**
- E4 Record of Mediation – **to be used by those who conduct a mediation.**
- E5 Record of Tribunal Decision.

General principles to be followed when completing a report of a complaint:

- Treat all complaints seriously.
- Deal with complaints promptly, sensitively and confidentially.
- Maintain a calm attitude.
- Ask the complainant if they will consent to you taking notes.
- Write the description of the complaint/problem using the complainant's own words (as much as is possible).
- Find out the nature of the relationship between the complainant and the person complained about (for example, coach/competitor, team members, etc) and if there is any relevant history.
- Take a note of the facts and do not pre-judge the situation.
- Ask the complainant whether they fear victimisation or other consequences.
- Find out what outcome the complainant wants and if they need any support.
- Ask the complainant how they want the complaint to be dealt with under the policy.
- Keep the complaint confidential and do not disclose it to another person without the complainant's consent except if disclosure is required by law (for example, a report to government authorities) or if disclosure is necessary to effectively deal with the complaint.

Attachment E1: CONFIDENTIAL RECORD OF INFORMAL COMPLAINT

[MPIO] Name		Date: / /
Complainant's Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18	
Role/status in [sport]	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Official 	
Location/event of alleged issue		
Facts as stated by complainant		
Nature of complaint (category/basis/grounds) Can tick more than one box	<input type="checkbox"/> Harassment or <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual/sexist <input type="checkbox"/> Selection dispute <input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality <input type="checkbox"/> Personality clash <input type="checkbox"/> Race <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying <input type="checkbox"/> Religion <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Victimisation <input type="checkbox"/> Child Abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Feelings expressed by complainant (completing this may help to separate emotional content from facts)		

What they want to happen to fix issue	
What information I provided	
What they are going to do now	

This record and any notes must be kept in a confidential place – do not enter it on a computer system. If the issue becomes a formal complaint, this record is to be sent to Executive Director (the Australian Croquet Association) or administrator of relevant state association.

Attachment E2: CONFIDENTIAL RECORD OF FORMAL COMPLAINT

Complainant's Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18	Date Formal Complaint Received: / /
Role/status in croquet	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Official 	
Name of person complained about	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18	
Role/status in croquet	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Official 	
Location/event of alleged issue		
Description of alleged issue		
Nature of complaint (basis/grounds/category) Can tick more than one box	<input type="checkbox"/> Harassment or <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual/sexist <input type="checkbox"/> Selection dispute <input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality <input type="checkbox"/> Personality clash <input type="checkbox"/> Race <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying <input type="checkbox"/> Religion <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Victimisation <input type="checkbox"/> Child Abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Methods (if any) of attempted informal resolution		
Support person (if any)		

Formal resolution procedures followed (outline)	
If investigated: Finding -	
If went to hearing tribunal: Decision - Action recommended -	
If mediated: Date of mediation - Were both parties present - Terms of Agreement - Any other action taken -	
If went to appeals tribunal: Decision Action recommended	
Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 3 months to resolve <input type="checkbox"/> Between 3 – 8 months to resolve <input type="checkbox"/> More than 8 months to resolve
Completed by	Name: Position in Australian Croquet Assoc Signature: / /
Signed by:	Complainant: Respondent:

This record and any notes must be kept in a confidential place. If the complaint is of a serious nature, or is escalated to and/or dealt with at the national level, the original must be forwarded to the national body and a copy kept at the club/state/district level (whatever level the complaint was made).

Before completing, ensure the procedures outlined in attachment C4 have been followed and advice has been sought from the relevant government agency and/or police.

Complainant's Name (if other than the child)		Date Formal Complaint Received: / /
Role/status in croquet		
Child's name		Age:
Child's address		
Person's reason for suspecting abuse (e.g. observation, injury, disclosure)		
Name of person complained about		
Role/status in croquet	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Official	
Witnesses (if more than 3 witnesses, attach details to this form)	Name (1): Contact details: Name (2): Contact details: Name (3): Contact details:	
Interim action (if any) taken (to ensure child's safety and/or to support needs of person complained about)		
Police contacted	Who: When: Advice provided:	
Government agency contacted	Who: When: Advice provided:	
CEO contacted	Who: When:	

Police and/or government agency investigation	Finding:
Internal investigation (if any)	Finding:
Action taken	
Completed by	Name: Position in Australian Croquet Assoc Signature: / /
Signed by	Complainant (if not a child)

This record and any notes must be kept in a confidential place and provided to the relevant authorities (police and government) should they require them.

Attachment E4: RECORD OF MEDIATION

Present at Mediation	
Date of mediation	
Venue of mediation	
Mediator	
Summary of mediation (minutes attached)	
Outcome of mediation	
Follow-up to occur (if required)	
Completed by: (signature)	
Signed by: Complainant (signature) Respondent (signature)	

Attachment E5: RECORD OF TRIBUNAL DECISION

Complainant's Name			Date Formal Complaint Received: / /
Role/status in croquet	<div> <input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Other </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Official </div> <div> </div>		
Name of person complained about			
Role/status in croquet	<div> <input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Other </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Official </div> <div> </div>		
Location/event of alleged issue			
Description of alleged issue			
Nature of complaint (basis/grounds/category)	<div> <input type="checkbox"/> Harassment or <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual/sexist <input type="checkbox"/> Selection dispute </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality <input type="checkbox"/> Personality clash </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Race <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Religion <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Victimisation </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Child Abuse </div> <div> Other </div>		
Methods (if any) of attempted informal resolution			
Support person (if any)			
Tribunal Members			
Tribunal Hearing Date and venue			

Tribunal Decision (attach report)	
Action recommended and any follow up report required	
Decision Appealed Date of Appeal lodged	
Appeal Hearing Date	
Appeal Decision (attach report)	
Action Recommended	
Completed by	Name: Position in Australian Croquet Assoc Signature: / /
Signed by:	Complainant Respondent