



FLAGSTAFF HILL FOOTBALL CLUB INC.

"Success through CLUB SPIRIT, JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT & CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT"

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Date Introduced	Last Review Date	Next review Date
March 2008	-	March 2009

INTRODUCTION

Every child has a right to be safe from harm at all times. Sport is a particularly vulnerable area for potential child abuse because it involves a large number of people under the age of 18 and it usually involves close relationships between adults and children, where the adults are in a position of trust and able to assert authority over children.

By far, the majority of staff and volunteers involved with children are encouraging, supportive, competent and ethical in their activities. However, it is recognised that some people are attracted to child-related activities and employment in order to gain access to children for ulterior purposes.

The Flagstaff Hill Football Club is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people accessing our service. We believe in providing all players with an encouraging, enjoyable, successful and safe supporting environment in keeping with our philosophies of club spirit, junior development and constant improvement. We support the rights of children 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 volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants.

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

This Child Protection Policy aims to ensure our core values, good reputation and positive behaviours and attitudes are maintained. It assists us in ensuring that every person involved in football is treated with respect and dignity, and is safe and protected from abuse. This policy also ensures that everyone involved in football is aware of their legal and ethical rights and responsibilities.

WHO THIS POLICY APPLIES TO

This policy applies to officials, coaches, trainers, team support staff and volunteers.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Abuse is a form of harassment and includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and abuse of power.

Child is a person who is under the age of 18 years.

Child abuse is the maltreatment of children (usually by adults, sometimes by other children) and often by those they know and trust. 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 (eg. hitting or other physical harm; giving a child alcohol or drugs; or training that exceeds the child's development or maturity).
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse (eg. humiliation, sarcasm, yelling, negative criticism, name calling, ignoring or placing unrealistic expectations on a child).
- Neglect (eg. failing to give food, water, shelter or clothing or to protect a child from danger or foreseeable risk of harm or injury).

CONDUCT AGREEMENTS

In addition to this policy, the Flagstaff Hill Football Club requires all officials, coaches, trainers, team support staff members, players and spectators to abide by the Club's Conduct Agreements (visit www.fhfc.com.au)

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

The Flagstaff Hill Football Club acknowledges that our officials, coaches, trainers, team support staff members and volunteers provide a valuable contribution to the positive experiences of our juniors. The Flagstaff Hill Football Club 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:

- Prohibiting any form of abuse against children
- Carefully selecting and screening people whose role requires them to work with children
- Ensuring our conduct agreements are promoted, enforced and reviewed
- Providing procedures for reporting concerns or complaints

REPORTING ABUSE

Anyone who suspects, on reasonable grounds, that a child or young person is being abused or neglected, should report it to the Child Abuse Report Line on 13 14 78. It is the role of Families SA to assess the notification and determine whether departmental action is warranted.

Under section 11 of the *Children's Protection Act 1993*, certain groups of people are required to report to Families SA if they suspect on reasonable grounds that a child is being abused or neglected and this suspicion is formed in the course of their work. This is a legal obligation which carries a penalty if the individual fails to comply. These people are referred to as mandated notifiers, and include non-government organisations that provide sporting or recreational services wholly or partly for children, being a person who either:

- Is engaged in the actual delivery of those services to children
- Holds a management position in the relevant organisation the duties of which include direct responsibility for, or direct supervision of, the provision of those services to children.

The Flagstaff Hill Football Club also requires that anyone who reasonably suspects that a child has been or is being abused by someone within our sport, to report it immediately to the President or Chairman of the Flagstaff Hill Football Club.

Coaches, trainers, team support staff members, officials and volunteers should advise the President or Chairman of the Flagstaff Hill Football Club if they are concerned that their actions or words have been misunderstood.

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.

ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Flagstaff Hill Football Club will

- Publish, distribute and promote this policy
- Publish, distribute and promote the Flagstaff Hill Football Club's Conduct Agreements
- Promote appropriate standards of conduct at all times
- Promptly deal with any breaches or complaints made under this policy in an impartial, sensitive, consistent, fair, timely and confidential manner
- Monitor and review this policy annually

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Individuals bound by this policy are responsible for:

- Making themselves aware of the policy and complying with the requirements and standards of conduct outlined in this policy and in the conduct agreements
- Consenting to a criminal history check

- Cooperating in providing a discrimination, child abuse and harassment free sporting environment

BREACH OF THIS POLICY

Any breach of this policy will be addressed by the President or Chairman of the Flagstaff Hill Football Club and may result in disciplinary action.