



CHILD SAFE POLICY

Purpose

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the committee, staff and volunteers of M A Olympic FC (MAOFC) to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and practices the club has developed to keep everyone safe from any harm, including abuse.

Commitment to Child Safety

All children who are a part of the club have a right to feel and be safe. The welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority and the club has a zero tolerance to child abuse. The club aims to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe, have fun and club activities are always carried out in the best interests of the children.

Application of this Policy

This policy applies to all individuals involved in our organisation) including, but not limited to:

- Committee Members
- Coaches
- Team Managers
- Officials
- Players
- Parents
- Spectators

All of the people to which this policy applies have a role and responsibility in relation to child protection. They must all:

- understand the indicators and risks of child abuse
- appropriately act on any concerns raised by children, and
- understand and follow all applicable laws in relation to the protection of children and reporting or management of child safety concerns

Child Abuse

Child abuse can take a broad range of forms including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse and neglect. People to whom this policy applies need to be aware that child abuse can occur whenever there is actual or potential harm to a child, and these are circumstances that the club is committed to reducing the risk of occurrence.

Children's Rights to Safety and Participation

The club encourages children to express their views about their safety. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all children who use our services to have a say about things that are important to them.

Recruiting staff and volunteers

The club takes the following steps to ensure best practice standards in the recruitment and screening of staff and volunteers:

- Require Working with Children Checks for relevant positions, detailed in the Child Safe Working With Children Check Guidelines.
- Our commitment to Child Safety are part of the induction process for new volunteers.



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Supporting staff and volunteers

The club seeks to attract and retain the best volunteers. We provide support so people feel valued, respected and fairly treated.

Reporting a child safety concern or complaint

The club Executive Members hold the responsibility for responding to any complaints made by volunteers, parents or children.

The reporting procedure is as follows:

- Any reports of child abuse are to be made to a member of the Clubs Executive Committee. Contact details are listed in the Contact section of the website. The executive member is to report to Police if there is any report of sexual or physical abuse of a child. The executive member will stay in contact with the reporter and alleged victim to provide support.
- The executive member will communicate to the remaining executive members. A detailed written report of supplied information from the reporter will be recorded and stored.

Risk Management

We recognise the importance of a risk management approach to minimising the potential for child abuse or harm to occur and use this to inform our policy, procedures and activity planning. In addition to general occupational health and safety risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse to our children. To reduce the risk of child abuse occurring, adults to whom this policy applies should avoid direct, unsupervised contact with children.

This is detailed in the Child Safe Communication Guidelines and the Child Safe Physical Contact Guidelines.

Reviewing this policy

This policy will be reviewed every three years.