



SANFL is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people participating in, officiating or associated in any way with football in South Australia. We support the rights of the child and will act at all times to ensure a child safe environment is maintained. We acknowledge the valuable contribution made by our staff, members and volunteers and we encourage their active participation in providing a safe, fair and inclusive environment for all participants.

As part of the education and training program to promote and maintain Child Safe Environments in our football communities, SANFL has prepared the below club procedure to support clubs and the promotion of being Child Safe Organisation.

1. National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

National Principles

SANFL acknowledges the importance of being a Child Safe Organisations and is committed to observing and promoting to member leagues and clubs the National Principles.

1. Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
 2. Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
 3. Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
 4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
 5. People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
 6. Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.
 7. Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
 8. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
 9. Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.
 10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.
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SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CLUB PROCEDURE

2. Requirements under South Australian Law

Lodge a Compliance Statement

Lodge a [child safe environments compliance statement](#) with DHS; or SANFL will do this on your behalf as part of affiliation agreements, providing there is sufficient evidence a club is meeting its Child Safe Environment responsibilities. This may include providing written evidence of adoption of SANFL Member Protection Policy. To understand compliance statement responsibilities please refer to the link as above.

Provide a Safe Environment

- Create and maintain an environment that is both child safe and child friendly
 - Meet the legal requirements of *the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* and *the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016*
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Working with Children Checks (WWCC)

As of 1 July 2019, all persons aged 14 or over undertaking child-related work will be required to have a [Working with Children Check](#) (WWCC)

Free to all volunteers across South Australia: [apply here](#)

As a guide, the following people should obtain a check:

- All coaches who interact and deal with Children and Young People;
 - Umpires who officiate games involving Children and Young People;
 - Club captains / players who interact and deal with Children and Young People;
 - Team managers, trainers who interact and deal with Children and Young People;
 - Junior coordinators;
 - Those running or managing a business where the employees or volunteers work with children;
 - Club president, secretary and other committee members for all clubs with Children and Young People participants;
 - League Administrators where the league has Junior competitions or young people playing in senior grades.
 - Other volunteers directly involved in the delivery of programs and services to Children and Young People; and
 - Any other person required by the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016 to hold a WWCC.
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Club Responsibilities for Working with Children Checks

Before engaging a person, clubs must ensure the potential employee or volunteer has a WWCC. They must also provide certain information, such as their contact details, to the DHS Screening Unit.



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CLUB PROCEDURE



- Where a club continues to engage a person, they must ensure their WWCC remains current at all times
- Clubs must notify the DHS Screening Unit of certain information about a person, e.g. if the club or league becomes aware of criminal charges relating to an employee or volunteer, or if a person is prohibited from working with children in another state or territory. They can report this information by logging into the DHS Screening Unit online portal. This must also be reported to SANFL Member Protection Officer (MPIO).
- Clubs need to verify their employees or volunteers with a WWCC via the DHS Screening Unit online portal. Multiple organisations can link to a person. If the person's WWCC status changes, clubs that have verified the person will be notified.
- SANFL for the purpose of ensuring compliance with SA Legislation may request evidence of the above.

Register your club with DHS

Clubs will need to [register](#) with DHS as an organisation to complete check verification processes.

Registering as an organisation requires an ABN. If your club does not have an ABN you will need to obtain one.

Mandatory Reporting

Identify who is a [mandated notifier](#) and reporting requirements.

WWCC Exemptions

The legislation identifies the following persons are exempt from requiring a WWCC

- Currently Employed Police Officer (SAPOL or AFP)
- A person who is under the age of 14;
- A visiting worker from another state if they hold an equivalent clearance from their home state. Visiting conditions must comply with the frequency rules outlined in the next point.
- If the volunteer will not work with children on more than 7 days in a calendar year (across all organisations they will work with)
- Parents or guardians volunteering in an activity involving their child *

*The Parent/Guardian exemption does not apply if the child related work involves close personal contact with a child that is not your own. Close personal contact includes a child in a state of undress.

The Parent / Guardian exemption does not form part of SANFL WWCC policy for clubs. SANFL policy requires all volunteer parents/ guardians to hold a WWCC.



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3. Requirements of SANFL as the Governing Body for Football in SA

SANFL Policies

- Complete all the requirements of Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016 and the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017
- Adopt SANFL Member Protection Policy and be able to provide evidence of adoption if requested
- Volunteers are inducted and trained, including understanding and signing a Code of Behaviour

Child Safe Officer

- Appoint a Child Safe Officer
- Attend Child Safe Officer Training - available through SportSA [check here](#) for upcoming sessions
- If a child safe officer is not appointed duties of the role will default to the club president.

4. Safeguarding Children and Young People Best Practice

Training and Education

- Those identified as requiring a WWCC are encouraged to complete [the Play By The Rules Child Protection](#) online training

Club Policies and Procedures

For example

- Travel and car pooling
- Training drop off / pick up
- Recruitment and Induction procedures

Other great resources

Visit [Play by the Rules SA Child Safety Laws](#)

SANFL Key Contacts

Member Protection Information Officers (MPIO)

Belinda Haines – People & Culture Manager

Oliver Graham – SANFL Juniors Competition Manager

Integrity Unit

Scott Irrgang – Integrity & Compliance Manager