



Fencing SA

Child Safe Environment Policy

Effective: December 2021

Review date: December 2026

Fencing SA's commitment to the safety of children and young people

Fencing SA recognises and acknowledges that:

- Children and young people are valued members of our fencing community;
- Children and young people of different race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability or attributes and religious beliefs are respected and equity is upheld;
- The success of fencing within South Australia is bound to the wellbeing of Fencing SA and its member clubs', children and young people; and
- It is of great importance to the State in whole, and to the continued growth of fencing within South Australia, that all children and young people are given the opportunity to thrive within the fencing community without fear or prejudice.

Fencing SA recognises that, as the State representative body for fencing, we want each child and young person to benefit from (at least) the following outcomes:

- To be safe from harm;
- To enjoy a healthy lifestyle ; and
- To be active participants within our fencing community who have a voice and influence.

Fencing South Australia accordingly commits to promoting these outcomes and recognises it is the duty of every person in the South Australian fencing community to safeguard and promote these outcomes.

Fencing South Australia will actively support its member clubs to develop and implement policies and practices to ensure compliance with the child safe environments provisions of the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* and the *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016*.

CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY

1. Purpose

Fencing SA (FSA) is committed to the safety and well-being of all children and young people who participate in our sport or access our services. We support the rights of the child or young person and will act at all times to ensure that a child-safe environment is maintained.

The purpose of this Child Safe Environment Policy (the policy) in conjunction with the overarching Australian Fencing Federations (AFFs) Member Protection Policy, is to clearly communicate the roles and responsibilities for everyone involved with FSA (the organisation) and its member clubs in relation to children and young people within the fencing community.

2. Scope

This policy applies to FSA, its member clubs as listed below and all participants and spectators involved in fencing related activities within South Australia.

The affiliated member clubs include:

- Adelaide Hills Fencing Club;
- Adelaide Swords Club;
- Adelaide University Fencing Club;
- Charles Sturt Fencing Club; and
- Trott Park Fencing Club

Additional training facilities include:

- Flinders University Fencing Club

3. Children and young people's participation

FSA will encourage children and young people to be involved in developing and maintaining child-safe environments in fencing by outlining the rights of children and young people who are accessing our services and programs in our Member Protection Policy. The Member Protection Policy provides clear communication on how children and young people (or their carers) can report any concerns or provide feedback.

Children and young people are actively encouraged to participate in fencing in a non-threatening environment through age appropriate competitions and the Schools League.

4. Code of conduct

FSA has adopted the AFF's Codes of Conduct that include standards of care by adults when dealing and interacting with children involved in fencing, especially those in our care.

It is a fundamental right of our members and participants to be treated with respect and dignity, and to be safe and protected from discrimination, harassment, harm or risk of harm while participating in our sport.

FSA aims to ensure that all people engaging in fencing activities maintain responsible behaviour so that everyone can participate in a positive environment and enjoy the sport.

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These Codes of Conduct inform our stakeholders and community of their legal and ethical rights and responsibilities and the standards of behaviour that are expected.

These Codes of Conduct represents FSA and the AFF's commitment to encouraging an environment where the rights of stakeholders are protected and appropriate standards are maintained to ensure a safe and enjoyable sporting experience.

These Codes of Conduct were approved by the AFF Board on 17 December 2019 and were subsequently adopted by FSA. These Codes of Conduct are effective from 1 February 2020 and will operate until amended, repealed or replaced in accordance with the provisions of the AFF Constitution.

The Code of Conduct can be accessed from FSA's website via the following link:
[Codes-of-Conduct-FINAL-December-2019.pdf \(fencingsa.org.au\)](https://www.fencingsa.org.au/Files/2019/12/20191217-Codes-of-Conduct-FINAL-December-2019.pdf).

5. Choosing suitable volunteers

FSA will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages suitable and appropriate people to work with children, especially those in positions that involve regular unsupervised contact with children. This will include using a range of screening measures including a compulsory Working With Children Check, National Coaching accreditation and, referee accreditation checks.

In accordance with the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016, we will ensure that working with children checks (WWCC) are conducted and maintained for all FSA volunteers and member clubs who work with children. We will also ensure coaching AFF accreditation audits are undertaken.

We will immediately contact the DHS Screening Unit if we become aware of certain information regarding any person involved with our organisation, including any serious criminal offence, child protection information, or disciplinary or misconduct information.

Clear volunteer position descriptions are included in FSA's Member Protection Policy.

6. Supervision, training and support for volunteers

FSA 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.

FSA volunteers who work with children must undertake Play by the Rules training in Child Harassment and Child Protection every two years. FSA has an appointed Member Protection Information Officer that has undertaken Child Safe Officer training.

7. Reporting and responding to the suspicion that a child or young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm

FSA ensures that volunteers and employees are able to identify and respond to children and young people who have been harmed or are at risk of harm by:

- having a mandatory requirement that volunteers and employees must have a current

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Play By the Rules Child Protection, and Harassment and Discrimination certification;

- making volunteers and employees aware of their responsibilities under the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017*, if they have suspicion on reasonable grounds that a child or young person is at harm or risk of harm;
- ensuring all people involved in the organisation will report suspicion that a child or young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm to the Child Abuse Report Line (CARL) on 13 14 78 or if at immediate risk, call SA Police on 000; and
- ensuring volunteers and employees aware of their reporting obligations under the Member Protection Policy: [Member-Protection-Policy.pdf \(fencingsa.org.au\)](#)

FSA requires that any child who is abused or anyone who reasonably suspects that a child has been or is being abused by someone within the fencing community, report it immediately to the police or relevant government agency and the President of FSA.

FSA mandated notifiers include all members of the board, officials and coaches. Mandated notifiers have a legal obligation to notify CARL as soon as practicable if they suspect on reasonable grounds that a child is or may be at risk of harm.

FSA require the board, officials, coaches and its volunteers to be aware of their role and responsibilities to report and respond appropriately. FSA require:

- all officials, coaches and volunteers read and understand the South Australian Governments 'Safe environments for children and young people - [Mandatory Notification Information Booklet](#)' (see: www.dhs.sa.gov.au/cse)
- all officials, coaches and volunteers read and understand the Department for Child Protection's 'Mandatory Reporting Guide'. The Mandatory Reporting Guide has been designed by the Department for Child Protection to assist mandatory reporters when they are concerned that a child is, or may be, at risk and must decide whether or not to report their concerns via the Child Abuse Report Line. This document consists of a series of decision making trees and aims to assist mandatory reporters in becoming familiar with the reporting threshold and the provision of detailed reports. [mandatory-reporting-guide.pdf](#)
- Board meetings to include child safe environment as a standing item on meeting agendas.

FSA will support children, young people and their families after a report has been made by:

- referring the child, young person or their family to other appropriate services;
- continuing to provide a service to the child or young person and their family and monitoring their circumstances; and
- displaying information about services that can assist children, young people and their families (such as the Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800 and Youth Helpline on 1300 13 17 19) on our website.

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Should Fencing SA have reasonable belief that a child or young person allegedly has, or may have been at risk of harm, by a member of the organisation, Fencing SA will act thoroughly and quickly, with top importance placed on ensuring the safety and protection of children and young people.

Fencing SA expects all Affiliate Members (Clubs) to have a zero tolerance approach to any form of Child Abuse. Fencing SA supports the rights of children and will act immediately to ensure a child safe environment is maintained where Children and all Participants feel safe, respected, valued and empowered at all times.

8. Reporting and responding to complaints about a person involved in our organisation

FSA will deal with all complaints promptly, sensitively and fairly.

FSA ensures that volunteers and employees are able to identify and respond to complaints about a person involved in our organisation by:

- Ensuring volunteers are aware of the appointed Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) and MPIO's role in the complaint handling process;
- Ensuring volunteers and employees aware of their reporting obligations under the Member Protection Policy: [Member-Protection-Policy.pdf \(fencingsa.org.au\)](#); and
- Having a record of compliant form assessable on FSA's website: [Record of complaint form.doc \(fencingsa.org.au\)](#).

9. Risk management

FSA will identify, assess and monitor all potential and actual sources of harm and take steps to minimise the risk to children and young people who attend FSA related activities. Risk assessment tools are used where appropriate to determine if a child or young person is at risk. Strategies to minimise risks to children and young people occur as part of FSA's ongoing risk management process.

FSA have implemented the following policies and procedures to assist in managing risk and safeguarding children and young people:

- Risk Management Policy
- Codes of conduct
- Member Protection Policy

FSA also ensure children checks (WWCC) are conducted and maintained for all FSA employees, volunteers and member clubs who work with children.

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10. Communication

Chapter 8 (Section 114(5)) of the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 requires that FSA must, at the request of a parent or caregiver, produce for inspection a copy of the child safe environments policies and procedures prepared or adopted by the organisation. FSA will provide parents, guardians or carers with evidence of their child safe environments policies and procedures when requested.

FSA ensures that this policy is publicly available on the FSA website and that all members are informed of the policy and how to access it.

11. Related policies and procedures

This Child Safe environment Policy must be read in conjunction with the AFF Member Protection Policy.

Related policies and procedures include:

- Member Protection Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Codes of conduct

12. Policy review

In accordance with **Section 115** of the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017*, FSA will evaluate and review this policy and the associated procedures at least once every 5 years.

FSA may also choose to review this policy in the event:

- New or additional risks are identified for children or young people, which may require a change in the policy or procedural documents;
- A critical incident where a child or young person has experienced harm due to their involvement in the organisation;
- Concerns are raised by anyone involved with FSA about child safety or welfare in the organisation; and
- Awareness or compliance to the child safe policy and/or procedures is low,

Or

- To include any additional obligations or requirements above the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 and or the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016 as directed by the AFF.