

EDJSA Policy

Child Safe Environment Policy

Return to Child Safety Policy

As per the Child Protection Act of 1993 (South Australia) we are required to:

- Conduct criminal history checks of volunteers
- Lodge a Compliance Statement with the Department of Education and Child Development

1. Criminal History Checks

All persons holding positions involving people 17 years of age and younger, must acquire a National Police Clearance (NPC). Anyone volunteering to coach must produce this Clearance prior to attending coaching courses. Clubs may request other regular volunteers to provide a Clearance at their own discretion.

E&DJSA has a clearly defined process by which to obtain a National Police Clearance. (See Appendix A.)

2. Lodging a Compliance Statement

Sport and recreation bodies are required to lodge a Child Safe Environment Compliance Statement with the Department of Education and Child Development. This is to be completed by a person on the E&DJSA responsible for either Child Protection or StarClub status.

3. Mandating Reporting

As of December 2005 any person providing sport and recreation, whether coaching or in a committee position responsible to care for and protect children, now has a duty to report any suspected abuse or neglect to the Child Abuse Report Line (CARL) on 13 1478. Clubs may have a Child Protection Officer that details can be brought to/discussed with. The E&DJSA also has a Child Protection Officer that can be contacted. Training can be undertaken through the Office of Recreation and Sport for 3 hours, in a sport specific course.

4. Reporting to the Child Abuse Report Line

If a Club experiences an issue, either the concerned person or the Club Child Protection Officer can conduct E&DJSA. The form provided in Appendix B can be completed if the situation warrants, and the Child Protection Officer then contacts CARL with the relevant facts. Whether the individual Club may be contacted will be decided by the Child Protection Officer.

Clubs can also construct code of conduct statements for players, officials and spectators. The Office of Recreation and Sport (www.ors.sa.gov.au) also provides resources on providing a Child Safe Club. Ensuring everyone abides by a code of conduct means a safe environment for all persons 17 and under.

APPENDIX-A

1. Acquiring a National Police Clearance

Applicants can obtain and complete a form online. Go to <https://www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/apply-for-a-police-record-check>. Once the form is completed and printed, take it to a police station with 100 points of identification. When the ID has been sighted and stamped, retain the form. Do not lodge the form at the police station. The form is to be sent to E&DJSA at PO Box 888, Salisbury SA 5108. By sending the form to E&DJSA for a VOAN (Volunteer Organisation Authorisation Number) a fee will be waived for all applicants. The NPC will be sent to the applicant. The completed Clearance should be taken to the Club for sighting.

Clubs are advised to compile a database of all volunteers as the NPC is only valid for 3 years and needs to be renewed. E&DJSA also maintains a database of applications that have been successfully processed.