

Barwon Heads Sailing Association Child Safe Policy



Our Commitment to Child Safety

Our organisation is committed to child safety.

We want all children to be happy, safe and empowered and to be able to participate in all aspects of club life. We support and respect all children, as well as our flag officers, committee members, club members and volunteers.

We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and in strict accordance with this policy.

Our organisation is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying and acting on perceived risks.

Our Children

This policy is intended to empower children who we regard as vital and active participants in our organisation. We involve them in making decisions regarding matters which directly affect them. We listen to their views and respect what they have to say.

We promote diversity and tolerance in our club. We welcome people from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds, including indigenous children.

Our Leaders, Members and Volunteers

This policy guides our flag officers, general committee members, club members and volunteers.

Training and Supervision

Training and education are important to ensure that everyone in our organisation understands that child safety is everyone's responsibility.

Our organisational culture aims for all club members and participants (in addition to parents, carers and children) to feel confident in discussing any allegations of child abuse or child safety concerns.

All members will be expected to familiarise themselves with and ensure they understand our organisation's commitment to child safety and to understand that everyone has a role to play in protecting children, as well as checking that their behaviour towards children is safe and appropriate. Any inappropriate behaviour will be reported through appropriate channels, including contacting the club safety officers, the Department of Health and Human Services or the Victoria Police, depending on the severity and urgency of the matter.

(See flow chart Appendix 1.)

Club Officials

All members engaged in child related work, including members of the committee, club officials and volunteers will be required to hold a current Working with Children Check (WWCC).

Legislative Responsibilities

Our organisation takes our legal responsibility seriously, including:

Failure to disclose: Reporting child sexual abuse is a community-wide responsibility. All adults in Victoria who have a reasonable belief that an adult has committed a sexual offence against a child have an obligation to report that information to the police.

Failure to protect: People in authority in our organisation will commit an offence if they know of a substantial risk of child sexual abuse and have the power or the responsibility to reduce or remove the risk, but negligently fail to do so.

Allegations, Concerns and Complaints

Our organisation takes all allegations seriously and will undertake an appropriate investigation.

If an adult has a reasonable belief that an incident has occurred then they must report the incident.

All concerns should also be reported to the club safety officers, either the Commodore or the Club Captain and an incident form should be completed.

Please refer to attached flow chart for Child Safety reporting process. (Appendix 1)

Privacy

All information obtained will be held by the child safety officers and divulged only to relevant parties including the police and child protection officers as required by law and to relevant and affected parties.

This document shall be reviewed by October 2026

