



# Child Safe Standards

## PARENTS AND GUARDIANS GUIDE

### WHY YOUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY:

1. We love basketball. We also love your child playing basketball with us and want them to keep participating. Yet we realise that they have to FEEL safe to enjoy sport and want to keep coming back.
2. All children have a right to feel safe, be involved and have a voice in decisions that affect them.
3. Society has changed, and with it, higher standards of behaviour are now expected – of all of us. Sometimes, even though we have good intentions, others' *perception* of behaviour is different. So we want to help you to understand how we will work with you to protect your children.

### WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO:

**We're here to help. Victoria has legislative requirements and mandatory standards in place about child safety. We can't ignore those. But we want to make it as simple as possible for you, your child and all of our club staff, volunteers, coaches and members to keep children safe.**

We've developed simple resources for you to explain how we keep children and young people safe in our organisation.

### SOME CHILD SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS:

You know your children best. Also, our schools now often teach their students about safety, boundaries with adults and that it's OK to speak up if they don't feel comfortable or safe. You can also help us to reinforce the key messages we have for children about child safety in sport, just as in life.

The **three key messages** we have in our Child Safe "Teens Guide" are:

1. Basketball should be fun, safe and enjoyable.
2. You should never feel uncomfortable around others in Basketball particularly adults.
3. If you don't feel safe or comfortable, it's OK to speak up. We want you to **tell an adult that you trust** – whether that's your Mum or Dad, guardian, coach or another member of your club or family.

We know that children are more likely to speak up if they **feel valued** and are **listened to** in an **authentic** and **genuine** way. So please help us to **keep the conversations open with your child** about how they are feeling

### SOME CONVERSATION TIPS TO TALK ABOUT SAFETY WITH YOUR CHILDREN:

It's not always comfortable talking to child about how they are feeling. The delivery of conversations is just as important as the message or content itself. You're more likely to engage with children about tricky topics if the conversation is calm, non-judgmental and open. That is, you're listening carefully to them and open to hearing more – showing empathy and letting them know that they're doing the right thing by talking.

To open up a conversation with your child about safety in sport, first of all, choose the right time. Sometimes, you may get more information in casual interactions, such as when driving in the car or going for a walk



together. You could try using an example that you have heard of with another child and whether they had seen or heard anything similar.

### **IF YOU NEED HELP:**

If ever your child tells you that they are not happy, comfortable or safe in our organisation, **please tell one of our Child Wellbeing and Safety Advisors or contact [childsafety@bulleenboomers.com.au](mailto:childsafety@bulleenboomers.com.au)**. Then we'll make sure that any issue raised is dealt with confidentially.

If you reasonably believe any child is in immediate danger of a significant nature, please call 000 to speak with police. You can also contact services such as Parent Helpline, NAPCAN, Lifeline, Childs Helpline and the Raising Children Network.

\*Australian Government National Child Office for Child Safety Complaint Handling Guide: Upholding the rights of children and young people – A Reference Guide, 2019.

# Commission for Children and Young People – Empowerment and Participation of Children Tip Sheet.

^ A **reasonable belief** is one that a reasonable person in the same position would have formed on the same grounds.