



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The issue of child abuse is a complex problem that has an impact on all areas of society, including participation in sport and recreation activities. The Wood Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service led to increased community awareness of the significant number of child sexual assaults and incidents of abuse that occur. It also highlighted the need for the development and implementation of strategies to protect children from abusive situations.

The Cronulla RSL Football Club acknowledges its responsibility for protecting children from abuse. By implementing strategies that will assist in preventing child abuse from occurring, Cronulla RSL Football Club believes it has taken a proactive role in relation to child protection and intervention. These strategies will help foster a safe and positive environment for children and young people to participate in the sport of soccer within our club.

In addition, the development of the Child Protection Policy and Guidelines provides Cronulla RSL Football Club with an excellent risk management tool for developing prevention strategies and for the effective management of child abuse issues within the sport. Information contained in this document will create a framework and provide direction for employees, officials, coaches, volunteers, members, and parents of children and young people involved in Cronulla RSL Football Club and affiliated organizations. It will help deliver a consistent approach to child abuse prevention at all levels within the game of soccer.

POLICY STATEMENT

Cronulla RSL Football Club is committed to ensuring that the health, safety, and welfare of children are maintained at all times during their participation in activities run by the soccer club and its affiliated member bodies. Cronulla RSL Football Club aims to promote a safe environment for all children and to assist all employees, coaches, referees, members, and volunteers in recognizing child abuse and neglect and following the appropriate notification guidelines when reporting alleged abuse.



WHY?

The focus of the policy and guidelines is the prevention of child abuse in the sporting environment, specifically soccer in the Sutherland Shire. This policy and guidelines promote the care and protection of children participating in soccer and provide information and direction for employees, officials, coaches, volunteers, and members of the organization. This policy and guidelines will assist Cronulla RSL Football Club in establishing coordinated strategies for dealing with the problem of child abuse and neglect in a responsible, effective, and consistent manner.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Through the development of this policy, Cronulla RSL Football Club's objectives are to:

- Provide information to assist employees and volunteers in dealing with all forms of child abuse.
- Provide comprehensive guidelines relating to risk minimization and reporting/notification guidelines.
- Provide direction to all employees and volunteers regarding their legal responsibilities under child protection legislation.
- Promote and adopt Football NSW principles for child protection and intervention among employees, volunteers, coaches, members, and parents of children participating in the organisation's programs and competitions.

SCOPE

The Child Protection Policy of Cronulla RSL Football Club is applicable to all management and employees (paid, voluntary, permanent, or casual).



IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

To implement the child protection legislation, Cronulla RSL Football Club will undertake to:

- Implement strategies and guidelines that focus on the best interests of children and meet the requirements of child protection legislation.
- Promote a safe and supportive environment for all children and young people participating in activities, which are under the control of Soccer NSW Ltd.
- Increase awareness and emphasize the importance of child protection issues in a sporting environment to all those involved with the activities of Soccer NSW Ltd. This includes administrators, coaches, officials, athletes, parents, and their children.
- Ensure that all officials and volunteers of Cronulla RSL Football Club are aware of their responsibilities arising from recent child protection legislation and the requirements under the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998, to inform the club committee if they have been convicted of a serious sex offense.

EXPECTATIONS

Administrators, coaches, officials, members, and volunteers often have a high level of contact with children in the sporting environment and play a major part in the successful operation of sporting activities. Coaches and officials are often seen as role models. They have significant influence on the children they encounter and therefore have significant responsibilities.

Cronulla RSL Football Club expects that all administrators, coaches, and officials, whether paid or unpaid, who participate in organized sport under the banner of this organization, will commit to implementing risk management strategies developed by Soccer NSW Ltd for child protection.

POLICY REVIEW

The Cronulla RSL Football Club Child Protection Policy and Guidelines will be reviewed annually and updated in line with any legislative changes that have a significant impact on the way child protection issues are to be dealt with.

(This policy has been adapted from the Football NSW Child Protection Policy)