

NSW Lacrosse Child Protection & Intervention Policy

EXECUTIVE STATEMENT


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 the significant number of child sexual assaults and incidents of abuse which occur. It also highlighted the need for the development and implementation of strategies to protect children from abusive situations.

Protecting children from abuse is a responsibility that we must all undertake. Through the implementation of strategies that assist in preventing child abuse from occurring, NSW Lacrosse Inc. has taken a pro-active role in relation to child protection and intervention. These strategies will help to foster a safe and positive environment for children and young people to participate in physical activities.

In addition, development of Child Protection and Intervention Policy and Guidelines provides the organisation with an excellent risk management tool for developing prevention strategies and for the effective management of child abuse issues within sport.

Information contained in this document will create a framework and provide direction for staff, officials, coaches, volunteers, members and parents of children and young people involved in NSW Lacrosse Inc., and affiliated regional and local clubs. It will help deliver a consistent approach to child abuse prevention at all levels of the sport and recreation industry.



30/6/07

President

Date

POLICY STATEMENT

NSW Lacrosse is committed to ensuring that the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children are maintained at all times during their participation in activities run by NSW Lacrosse Inc. and its member bodies. NSW Lacrosse Inc. aims to promote a safe environment for all children and to assist all staff, officials, coaches, members and volunteers to recognise child abuse and neglect and follow the appropriate notification procedures when reporting alleged abuse.

RATIONALE

The focus of the policy and guidelines is the prevention of child abuse in the sporting environment.

This policy and guidelines promote the care and protection of children participating in Lacrosse and provides information and direction for employees, officials, coaches, volunteers and members of the organisation.

This policy and guidelines will assist NSW Lacrosse Inc. in establishing coordinated strategies for dealing with the problem of child abuse and neglect in a responsible, effective and consistent manner.

OBJECTIVES

Through the development of this policy NSW Lacrosse Inc. objectives are to:

1. Provide information to assist staff and volunteers in identifying and dealing with all forms of child abuse.
2. Provide comprehensive guidelines relating to risk minimization and reporting/notification procedures.
3. Provide direction to all staff and volunteers regarding their legal responsibilities under child protection legislation.
4. Promote the adopt NSW Lacrosse Inc. principles for child protection and intervention amongst staff, volunteers, coaches, members and parents of children participating in the organisations' programs and competitions.

SCOPE OF POLICY

The Child Protection Intervention Policy of NSW Lacrosse Inc. are applicable to all management and staff (paid, voluntary, permanent or casual) of NSW Lacrosse Inc., and its affiliated regional/local clubs.

IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATION

In order to implement the child protection legislation NSW Lacrosse Inc will undertake to:

1. Implement strategies and procedures that focus on the best interests of children and meet the requirements of child protection legislation.
2. Promote a safe and supportive environment for all children and young people participating in activities which come under the umbrella of NSW Lacrosse Inc.
3. Increase awareness and emphasise the importance of child protection issues in a sporting environment to all those involved with the activities of NSW Lacrosse Inc.
4. Ensure that all paid staff of NSW Lacrosse Inc. are aware of their responsibilities arising from recent child protection legislation, in particular, the requirement under the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998, to inform their employers if they have been convicted of a serious sex offence.
5. Ensure that all paid staff of NSW Lacrosse Inc who are in contact with children either via our school development program or competitions in either a coaching or administrative capacity have completed a Prohibited Employment Declaration and Working With Children Background Check Consent Form and that a 100 point ID check has been completed in respect of each person and that these documents are filed and lodged as required under the relevant statutory requirements.
6. In the event an issue related to a paid staff member is identified through the background check process, NSW Lacrosse Inc will follow all required procedures outlined by the NSW Department of Sport & Recreation Child Screening Unit.
7. Ensure that all volunteer members who are in direct contact with children in either a coaching or administrative capacity have completed a Prohibited Employment Declaration and that this documentation is filed appropriately.

EXPECTATIONS

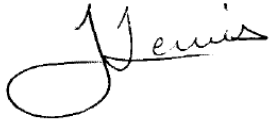
Administrators, coaches, officials, members and volunteers often have a high level of contact with children in the sporting environment and play a major part in the successful operation of sporting activities.

Coaches and officials are often seen as role models. They have significant influence on the children they come into contact with and therefore have significant responsibilities.

NSW Lacrosse Inc. expects that all administrators, coaches and officials whether paid or unpaid, who participate in organised sport under the banner of this organisation will commit to implementing risk management strategies developed by NSW Lacrosse Inc. for child protection and intervention.

POLICY REVIEW

NSW Lacrosse Inc. Child Protection and Intervention Policy and Guidelines will be reviewed annually and updated in line with any legislative changes that have significant impact on the manner in which child protection and intervention issues are to be dealt with.



30/6/07

President

Date