



CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Jurisdictional Child Safe Legislation and Child Safe Standards

Sport Integrity Australia's Child Safeguarding Policy has been developed to set clear standards of behaviour expected of those involved in sport when providing programs and services to children, as well as the behaviours that are not acceptable (Prohibited Conduct).

The policy is underpinned by the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (National Principles) and has been reviewed and endorsed by the National Office for Child Safety.

State/Territory Child Safe Legislation

The Child Safeguarding Policy requires individuals and organisations to comply with the relevant jurisdictional legislation in relation to working with children/vulnerable people checks and specific statutory child protection requirements.

Western Australia

Sport Integrity Australia has worked with Sport West and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Communities to ensure that the wording in the Child Safeguarding Policy does not conflict with WA legislation. Based on feedback received, Sport Integrity Australia made some minor changes to the policy and can now confirm that the Child Safeguarding Policy aligns with WA legislation.

State/Territory Child Safe Standards

In addition to jurisdictional legislation, some states and territories have established child safe standards for organisations that work with children. These standards require organisations to have policies, procedures and practices in place to keep children safe. In most instances, these child safe standards are based on the National Principles.

The Child Safeguarding Policy sets the expected standards of behaviour when working with children, but allows each organisation the flexibility to determine how they will go about achieving these standards.

The National Integrity Framework was not developed to meet state/territory child safe standards compliance requirements.

South Australia

In South Australia, organisations providing services to children and young people must, by law, provide child safe environments. Organisations providing services to children and young people must:

- have child safe environments policy in place and at a minimum, review their policy once every 5 years
- meet Working with Children Check obligations, and
- lodge a child safe environments compliance statement with the Department of Human Services and lodge a new statement each time the policy is reviewed and updated.

Sport Integrity Australia has worked in partnership with the Department of Human Services in South Australia to develop the SA Addendum to the Child Safeguarding Policy to meet compliance requirements.

Victoria

Sport Integrity Australia is aware that the Victorian Child Safe Standards have been updated and the changes will come into effect 1 July 2022. Whilst the Child Safe Standards are mandatory, there is no compliance reporting requirement currently.

One specific difference between the National Principles and the Victorian Child Safe Standards is Standard 1 in which organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.

Sport Integrity Australia recognises the importance for cultural safety and has clear language around discrimination in both the Child Safeguarding and Member Protection policies.

However, how an organisation will embed cultural safety and support and facilitate participation and inclusion within its operations does not form part of the Child Safeguarding Policy. This level of detail falls outside the scope of the National Integrity Framework. Victorian organisations are encouraged to develop stand-alone policies and procedures to address this standard.

Sport Integrity Australia continues to monitor the development of state/territory child safe standards and associated compliance frameworks. If deemed appropriate, Sport Integrity Australia may partner with the relevant state/territory agency to develop an addendum to the Child Safeguarding Policy. Any addendum to the National Integrity Framework must be developed and approved by Sport Integrity Australia.

