



# NORTHERN EAGLES SOCCER CLUB

## CHILD SAFETY POLICY

### Purpose:

The purpose of this Child Safety Policy is to ensure that all children involved in soccer activities organized by the Northern Eagles Soccer Club are provided with a safe and supportive environment. The safety and well-being of children are of the utmost importance, and the club is committed to preventing harm and promoting the welfare of all players.

Northern Eagles Soccer Club has zero tolerance for child abuse. Any form of abusive, derogatory, discriminatory, offensive or intimidating behaviour or language by adults towards minors, or minors towards other minors, is not acceptable. Any action that may be hurtful or risk being interpreted by a reasonable observer as grooming behaviour is unacceptable. Comments or actions that are negatively and unreasonably critical of a person's culture, ethnicity, language, gender identity, disability, sexuality or age, are unacceptable.

### Scope:

Committee members, coaches, staff, volunteers, players, parents/guardians, and anyone involved in the soccer club's activities, both on and off the field are bound by and are required to abide to this policy. If any person believes a child is in immediate risk of abuse, telephone 000.

### 1. General Principles

- **Respect for Children:** All individuals associated with the club must treat children with respect, fairness, and dignity.
- **Zero Tolerance for Abuse:** The club has a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of abuse, bullying, neglect, or inappropriate behaviour towards children.
- **Inclusive Environment:** We aim to provide an inclusive and welcoming environment where all children, regardless of background, ability, gender, or identity, feel safe and supported.

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### 2. Safe Recruitment and Training

- **Screening of Volunteers:** All volunteers involved with the club must hold a valid Working with Children's Check. Volunteers at the club include President, Treasurer, Team Managers, Coaches, Referees, general volunteers involved with leading other aspects of the clubs activities in regular contact with our young people.



- **Training and Education:** Coaches, staff, and volunteers will receive regular child protection and safeguarding training to ensure they are equipped to handle any concerns about child safety.
  - **Code of Conduct:** All adults working with children must adhere to a clear Code of Conduct which outlines expected behaviours and responsibilities.
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### 3. Safe Sporting Environment

- **Supervision:** Children will be supervised at all times during training sessions, matches, and any other club activities. At least two responsible adults will be present for all sessions.
  - **First Aid:** Trained first aid personnel will be present during all matches and training sessions. First aid kits will be available at all events.
  - **Appropriate Behaviour:** All individuals associated with the club must avoid inappropriate physical contact with children. No child should be in a one-on-one situation with an adult unless it is necessary for their safety or well-being.
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### 4. Behavioural Expectations

- **Code of Conduct for Children:** Children are expected to behave respectfully toward coaches, other players, and all club members. They should adhere to the values of sportsmanship, respect, and fair play.
  - **Disciplinary Procedures:** Any incidents of bullying, inappropriate behaviour, or abuse will be dealt with immediately, and appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken in accordance with the club's code of conduct.
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### 5. Reporting Concerns

- **Reporting Procedures:** Any concerns regarding the safety and well-being of a child should be reported to the club's designated Child Protection Officer (CPO) immediately. If the concern involves a coach, volunteer, or any other member of the club, the CPO will investigate the issue and take appropriate action.
  - **Confidentiality:** All concerns will be treated with confidentiality. The privacy of the children involved and any witnesses will be respected throughout the reporting and investigation process.
  - **Whistleblower Protection:** Individuals who report concerns in good faith will not face retaliation or victimization. Protection is afforded to anyone who raises a concern about a child's safety.
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## 6. Parental Involvement

- **Parental Awareness:** Parents should be informed about the club's child protection policies and encouraged to actively participate in their child's sporting experience.
  - **Communication:** Open and clear communication will be maintained between the club and parents. Parents are encouraged to ask questions and express any concerns regarding their child's participation.
  - **Pick-Up/Drop-Off:** Parents or guardians must ensure that their children are dropped off and picked up on time. The club cannot be responsible for children outside of scheduled training or match times. We request that those children in Goal Kick through to under 12 teams a parent or guardian remains at training.
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## 7. Physical Contact Guidelines

- **When to Touch:** In some circumstances, such as first aid, comforting a child, or supporting their learning, physical contact may be necessary. It must always be done in an appropriate and professional manner, and with the child's consent where possible.
  - **Boundaries:** Physical contact that is unnecessary or inappropriate is strictly prohibited. This includes actions such as massaging, tickling, or any contact that makes a child feel uncomfortable.
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## 8. Social Media and Online Interaction

- **Responsible Use:** Coaches and club members should not communicate with children through personal social media or messaging apps. Any online interaction should be strictly professional and directly related to club activities.
  - **Parental Consent:** Parents must give written consent before their child's image or likeness is used on the club's social media or other public platforms.
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By adhering to this policy, the club ensures that children can enjoy their soccer experience in a secure and positive environment.