



NSWFA Child Safeguarding Policy and Child Safe Practices

Guidance for Fencing Clubs

To meet the requirements of the law in NSW, the National Sport Integrity Framework, parental and community expectations, the NSW Fencing Association has published a Child Safeguarding Policy and associated Child Safe Practices.

Child Safeguarding Policy and Child Safe Practices - [download](#)

This Guidance for Fencing Clubs is intended to help club officials, volunteers and members to be aware of their shared obligation and responsibility to provide a child safe environment.

Clubs are responsible for their own self-management and compliance with the law and official regulations.

References to 'children and young people' cover anyone under the age of 18.

This guidance is relevant to:

- Club officials – President, Secretary, Committee members
- Coaches working at the club
- Volunteers
- Club members
- Parents

1. Working With Children Check

Under NSW law, everyone who works with children and young people must have a valid Working With Children Check (WWCC). This applies to everyone who comes into contact with children in the course of their paid or voluntary work.

Anyone who is paid for their work must have an 'Employee' WWCC. This involves a police check, payment of a fee (currently \$80) and is valid for 5 years.

Anyone who works with children as an unpaid volunteer can have a 'Volunteer' WWCC. This also lasts for 5 years and is free.

Anyone who works with children and young people without a valid WWCC is breaking the law.

Clubs should check that all coaches who are employed by the club or are permitted by the club to give lessons for which they accept payment have a valid WWCC if they are working with children and young people.

Coaches accredited by the AFF must annually verify via the AFF Portal that they have a valid WWCC. Note, however, not all coaches working in clubs are accredited.

Clubs should:

- Check the accreditation status of coaches working at the club from the list of accredited coaches published by the AFF. <https://www.ausfencing.org/accredited-coaches-list/>
- Ask all coaches and volunteers to show their WWCC certificates via the ServiceNSW app.
- Keep a register, including WWCC numbers, of all coaches and volunteers working at the club.

Note that having a valid WWCC means only that the holder does not have an official record of abuse towards children and young people at the time the WWCC certificate is issued. It does not mean that the holder can be absolutely trusted around children and clubs should be vigilant for any sign of misbehaviour by anyone regardless of whether they hold a WWCC certificate.

2. Member Protection Information Officers

The role of MPIOs is to be a source of information and advice for children, young people and anyone who is concerned about the way they, or someone else, is being treated. As well as playing a key role in child safeguarding, MPIOs have a broader role in the protection of all club members and participants.

It is important to understand that MPIOs do not investigate or take action on reports to them of issues around child safeguarding and member protection. Their role is to be a trusted point of contact and advice for anyone with concerns about child and member protection. The MPIO will help them to navigate the child and member protection process.

If a matter reported to an MPIO requires investigation it is reported to the appropriate authority as per the Child Safeguarding Policy and the requirements of the law on reporting of actual or suspected child abuse.

MPIOs need to be familiar with the NSWFA Child Safeguarding Policy and Child Safe Practices, the AFF Member Protection Policy and the NSWFA Code of Conduct.

AFF Member Protection Policy – [download](#)

NSWFA Code of Conduct - [download](#)

NSWFA encourages each club to have one or more qualified MPIOs and to ensure that club members, children and young people and parents know who they are and can easily contact them. Contact details should be shown on the club's website and mentioned in club newsletters.

Clubs should advise NSWFA of the names and contact details of their MPIOs which will be published on the NSWFA website.

MPIO certification is obtained via a free online course offered by Sport Integrity Australia/Play By The Rules <https://www.playbytherules.net.au/resources/articles/new-portal>

3. Official, Coach and Volunteer Undertaking

NSWFA requires all officials, coaches and volunteers engaged at the NSW Fencing Centre to give a formal undertaking that they are aware of their obligations and responsibilities with regard to child safeguarding.

Clubs are also encouraged to require their officials, coaches and volunteers to give the same undertaking. Forms can be downloaded [here](#).

4. General Club Safety

As well as child safeguarding and member protection, clubs have a general duty of care towards all users of club premises and equipment.

Clubs should appoint a Safety Officer and follow the NSWFA Safety Policy - <https://nswfencing.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2017NSWFA-Workplace-Safety-Policy.pdf>

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