



## **ASPENDALE ARROWS NETBALL CLUB CHILD SAFETY POLICY**

### **AUTHORISATION**

This policy was adopted by the Aspendale Arrows Netball Club (AANC) Committee of Management at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

### **SCOPE**

This Policy applies to all Committee members, registered players, parents and guardians, Coaches and Team Managers. This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Netball Victoria *Child Safety in Netball Code of Conduct 2016* and the Netball Victoria *Child Safety in Netball Policy 2016*.

### **PURPOSE**

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the committee of management and volunteers of the AANC to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and practices the AANC has developed to keep everyone safe from harm, including abuse.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Child Abuse-** Child abuse can take a broad range of forms including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse and neglect. People to whom this policy applies need to be aware that child abuse can occur whenever there is actual or potential harm to a child, and these are circumstances that the AANC is committed to reducing the risk of occurrence.

**Affiliate-**All bodies which are members of and affiliated with Netball Victoria, including all regions and clubs.

### **BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION**

The Victorian Government has introduced compulsory Child safety Standards that are applicable to all sporting clubs by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. All clubs must comply with the Code. Netball Victoria has a Child Safety policy and Code of Conduct that AANC has adopted in conjunction with this policy. Netball Victoria has added to their constitution an additional requirement for all adults that seek or hold a position of responsibility or authority must hold a valid working with children check.

This includes all Committee of Management members, Coaches and Team Managers.

## **SCOPE**

This policy applies to all individuals involved in our organisation including, but not limited to:

- Committee members
- Coaches
- Team Managers
- Participants
- Parents
- Spectators

All of the people to which this policy applies have a role and responsibility in relation to child protection. They must all:

- Understand indicators and risks of child abuse;
- Appropriately act on any concerns raised by children; and
- Understand and follow all applicable laws in relation to the protection of children and reporting or management of child safety concerns.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Commitment to Child Safety**

All children who are a part of the AANC have a right to feel and be safe. The welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority and the AANC has a zero tolerance to child abuse. The AANC aims to create a child safe and friendly environment where children feel safe and have fun and the AANC's activities are always carried out in the best interests of the children.

### **Children's Rights to Safety and Participation.**

The AANC encourages children to express their views about their safety. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all children who use our services to 'have a say' about things that are important to them. We listen and act on any concerns children, or their parents, raise with us.

### **Valuing Diversity**

We value diversity and do not tolerate any discrimination practices. To achieve this we:

- Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children and their families,
- Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and their families;
- Welcome children with a disability and their families and act to promote their participation.

### **Supporting staff and volunteers**

The club seeks to attract and retain volunteers in Committee roles, Coaches and team Managers. We provide support and supervision so people feel valued, respected and fairly treated. As an affiliate of Netball Victoria, the AANC have adopted the Netball Victoria *Child safety in Netball Code of Conduct* and the *Netball Victoria Child Safety in Netball Policy* to provide guidance to our volunteers, all of whom have access to the Code via the AANC website. The AANC also has a Parent Code of Conduct and Complaints Policy to guide all members and participants involved in the AANC.

### **Reporting a child safety concern or complaint**

The AANC has appointed the Executive Committee comprising of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, as Child Safety Persons with the specific responsibility for responding to any complaints made by committee, volunteers, coaches, team managers, parents, children or spectators. They can be contacted via the AANC email, [aanc3195@gmail.com](mailto:aanc3195@gmail.com). Our complaints process is outlined in the AANC Complaints Policy.

### **Risk Management**

We recognize the importance of a risk management approach to minimizing the potential for child abuse or harm to occur and use this to inform our policy, procedures and activity planning. In addition to general occupational health and safety risks, we will proactively manage the risks of abuse of to our children.

## **EVALUATION**

The incoming Committee of Management shall review this policy each year.

## **REFERENCES**

Netball Victoria, 2016 *“Child Safety in netball Code of Conduct”*

Netball Victoria, 2016 *“Child Safety Policy”*

VicSport 2016, *“Child Safety Standards, Child Safe Policy-Club Template”*