

Peel Valley Team Penning Association Inc

Incorporated Association 1300024

Associations Incorporations Act 2009 (NSW)

ABN: 92 447 739 921



Child Safety Policy

1. Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

- a) outline the organisation's commitment to child safety;
- b) outline appropriate standards of behaviour towards children; and
- c) guide the development of systems and processes that support the prevention and management of child abuse risks.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all members of the committee and organisation.

For the purposes of this policy, a child is an individual under the age of 18 years.

3. Authority

This policy supports compliance with the:

- a) The Office of the Children's Guardian legislation <https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/about-us/who-we-are/our-legislation>

4. Policy

4.1. The organisation is an inclusive and welcoming environment that supports the safety, participation, empowerment and wellbeing of all children. In particular, the organisation will provide a safe environment in which children can participate equally.

4.2. The organisation does not tolerate child abuse in any form, and will:

- a) take a proactive approach to the prevention of child abuse by identifying, removing and/or reducing risks early; and
- b) treat all allegations and safety concerns relating to child abuse very seriously.

5. Procedural Principles

General

5.1. All members of the organisation responsible for promoting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:

- a) treating children with respect;
- b) complying with all relevant laws, regulations, policies, processes and guidelines;
- c) reporting any instances of suspected child abuse; and
- d) complying with any child safety training, registration or accreditation requirements which may be relevant to their duties or activities.

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Cultural safety

5.2. The organisation will recognise and adapt to the needs of children and communities.

5.3. Where appropriate, the organisation will ensure that information is presented in a child-friendly, culturally sensitive, relevant and accessible manner.

Privacy, technology and social media

5.4. All members of the organisation must protect the privacy of children and their families in accordance with the Peel Valley Team Penning Association Rules

5.5. All members of the organisation must ensure that technology and social media are used appropriately in connection with children, including by:

- a) obtaining all necessary approvals from parents, guardians, or otherwise in accordance with relevant processes and guidelines;
- b) ensuring that any use of technology and social media is not detrimental to the child or harmful to the child's safety; and
- c) presenting children in a dignified and respectful manner.

5.6. Any member of the organisation who photographs or films children, or uses images of children, for promotional purposes must:

- a) obtain informed consent from a parent or guardian of the child and, where appropriate, directly from the child;
- b) ensure that the content and purpose of the photographs, film and video material are appropriate in accordance with section 5.5

Child abuse

5.7. All members of the organisation must avoid actions or behaviours that could be construed as child abuse. In particular, members of the organisation have a positive duty to avoid:

- a) using language or behaviour towards children that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning or culturally inappropriate;
- b) exploiting or harassing children in any way;
- c) engaging in unauthorised personal contact with children, including through social networking sites; or
- d) developing special relationships that could be seen as favouritism.

5.8. All members of the organisation must immediately report any concerns or allegations of child abuse or non-compliance with this policy.

5.9. A failure to comply with sections 5.7 or 5.8 may constitute a criminal offence and result in serious penalties.

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Responding to and reporting child abuse

5.10. The organisation's committee is responsible for establishing and implementing processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse.

7. Definitions

Child means a person who is under the age of 18 years.

Child abuse means any act committed against a child involving:

- physical violence (including threats of physical violence)
- sexual abuse
- serious emotional or psychological abuse; or
- serious neglect.

Child safety, in the context of this policy, means measures to protect children from child abuse.

Members of the organisation means:

- a) Financial members, including committee, and;
- b) all other individuals engaged in activities reasonably connected with the organisation, including contractors, consultants, volunteers, visitors.

POLICY APPROVER

Committee, Peel Valley Team Penning Association Inc.

REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed by 31 December 2020.