

Commitment statement - Safeguarding Children and Young People

August 2023

Our Club:

- is committed to the safety and wellbeing of every child and young person who takes part in our activities, programs, events or services;
- is committed to providing children and young people with a positive and nurturing experience;
- will support families and the community to promote the healthy development and wellbeing of all children;
- will strive to ensure that children and young people are protected from abuse and harm;
- will work to create an environment in which children and young people are safe and feel safe at all times;
- will listen to children and young people and address any concerns that they raise with us;
- will support our members and the community to report any suspicion, or concern in relation to the mistreatment, or potential mistreatment of a child or young person;
- will challenge inappropriate behaviour of any of its members or members of the community;
- will ensure all children and young people, no matter what cultural ethnicity, language, religion or disability, shall be able to participate in lifesaving in a fun and safe environment;
- will appoint a Member Protection Officer, or equivalent, and ensure this person is trained on the obligations and responsibilities with respect to safeguarding children and young people;
- will strive to ensure that persons in a position of authority do not harm, abuse or exploit children or young people who are involved within our club;
- may disclose information to police or an external child protection agency in the event we have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person.

As part of our commitment to safeguarding children and young people, our club:

- is committed to supporting parents and carers to protect their children and young people;
- will offer assistance that builds on a family's strengths and make up, is sensitive to their culture and religious beliefs and empowers them to meet the changing needs of their children and young people;
- is committed to communicating openly and honestly with parents and carers about the wellbeing and safety of their children and young people;
- will promote and distribute information to parents and carers about our safeguarding commitment to children and young people as part of an introduction to our club;
- endeavours to be transparent in our decision-making, with parents and carers, as long as doing so does not compromise the safety of a child/young person or breach the SLSA Privacy Policy.

This commitment was endorsed and approved by the Board of Management of our club on the 28th of August 2023.