



NSJCA GUIDELINE FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN

This guideline is designed for coaches, managers and other persons ('CMP') working with children to protect them from risk and to keep children who are involved in junior cricket safe.

All CPM, who are not a parent or close relative of a member of the team they are involved with are required, by Law, to complete the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian's Working with Children check.

Maintain Appropriate Boundaries

Coaches, managers and other personnel in positions of authority should maintain clear physical and emotional boundaries:

Physical Boundaries

- Only use physical contact that is appropriate for the development of a particular cricket skill
- Use drills to develop fitness, not as a punishment
- Work within sight of others at all times

Emotional/Verbal Boundaries

- Use positive feedback on performance, not negative feedback about the player
- Be encouraging and avoid put-downs

Minimise Physical Contact

In general, physical contact with players should be to:

- Develop a cricket skill
- Prevent or treat an injury
- Meet a specific requirement of cricket – such as assisting a player with external equipment e.g.: tightening his/her helmet

Do not touch players in ways likely to make them feel uncomfortable.

ALL physical contact by CMP should fulfill the following criteria:

- Permission from the player should always be sought
- It should be appropriate for the sport of cricket
- Player should be congratulated or comforted in public and not in an isolated setting out of sight of others.

Avoid being alone with a child

To protect both yourself and a player from risk:

- Do not isolate yourself and a player and avoid being alone with any player. Always be in sight of other coaches, managers, officials, parents or guardians.
- If a player approaches you and wishes to talk to you privately about a matter, do so in an open area and in sight of other coaches, managers, officials or parents/guardians. Do not go into a change room alone with a player.
- Before going into a change room knock or announce that you are going in. Try to have at least one adult with you in a change room with children.

Maintain Control – avoid losing your temper

At all times adopt positive language and behavior. Avoid bad or aggressive language that could intimidate a player/s or set a bad example.

Provide opportunities for all players

Equally opportunity should be encouraged at training and on game day. Avoid favouritism or bias, especially gender/racial/religious discrimination.

Ensure parents are clear about the collection of their children from trainings and games

Parents need to be responsible for the collection of their children from training and games. Ideally all players should have their own family arrangements to and from training and games.

Avoid being alone with a player at the end of trainings or games. To avoid this risk you may follow one of the actions listed:

- Have a register of parent/guardian contact details and a backup/emergency contact and make sure the coach/manager has this list at trainings/games and access to a phone.
- Provide the specific practice and game times and remind parents it is not a coaches/mangers' responsibility to transport players home if parents are delayed.
- If there are other people at the ground wait close to these people until the parent/guardian arrives.

- Ask the second to last player and their parent to wait with the coach/manager and the child
- Do not provide transport to/from trainings or games to a player unless specific permission has been sought and given to do so from the player's parents/guardian.

Treating injuries

Personnel qualified to administer first aid or treat sports injuries should attempt to do so if possible. If a CMP is required to treat an injury considerations include:

- The comfort level and dignity of the player should always be a priority
- Always report to parents/guardians injuries incurred and any treatment provided and document the incident. Clubs should keep an injury register with basic information about the injury (date/time/where it occurred, nature of the injury, treatment provided and by whom. This information can also be provided to the Cricket NSW insurer in case a claim is sought, or may be sort.

A player should be removed from the training/game if they are bleeding. The flow of blood should be stopped before allowing the child to rejoin the training/game.

Photographing/filming children

There are some people who attend sporting events to take inappropriate photographs or video of children. Please be alert to this possibility and report any concerns to your club or the NSJCA.

- Ensure you inform and gain permission from a player and their parent if you wish to photograph or video their child as a tool to analyse and improve performance.
- If the photos/videos are to be use for promotion (placed on a club/NSJCA website) or as a teaching aid for others then consent needs to be obtained from the parent.
- Do not allow professional photographers, members of the media or spectators unsupervised individual access to children. CMP should also ensure any approved photos/videos they are to take is not done so out of sight of others.
- Do not take photos/videos of children in changerooms.

NSJCA Code of Conduct

Be familiar with The NSJCA Code of Conduct and ask all members of your team to be familiar with the code in relation to their 'role'. The NSJCA Code of Conduct is found in the NSJCA Rules, the "Blue Book".

Incident Reporting Form

An incident Reporting form is available on the NSJCA website, www.nsjca.asn.au

Guidelines have been adapted from information from PlaybytheRules (www.playbytherules.net.au)
