



# Hectorville Hurricanes Netball Club

## Child Protection Policy

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of committee and officials to child safety and establishing and maintaining child safe and child friendly environments.

### **Commitment to safety of children/young people**

All children/young people who access or participate in the activities of the Hectorville Hurricanes Netball Club, have a right to feel and be safe.

Hectorville Hurricanes Netball Club is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people accessing our services and the welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where young people feel safe and enjoy learning.

It complies with our obligations under the Children's Protection Act 1993, including:

- Section 8B – 8D – Child Safe Environments and criminal history assessments for people working with children; and
- Section 11 – Mandatory reporting.

It also complies with the Child Safe Environments: Principles of Good Practice and Standards for dealing with information obtained about the criminal history

of employees and volunteers who work with children issued by the Chief Executive of the Department for Families and Communities.

### **Recruitment of volunteer coaches, officials and committee members**

Hectorville Hurricanes Netball Club is committed to the safety of children. To become a volunteer coach with Hectorville Hurricanes Netball Club you must agree to a police check. Either a National Criminal History Check or a DCSI screening and background check are the acceptable checks. This check needs to be submitted before the beginning of each season and held on file by the Hectorville Hurricanes Netball Club.

### **Bullying and Harassment**

Bullying and harassment is the repeated oppression, psychological and/or physical aggravation of a less powerful person by another person or group of persons. Hectorville Hurricanes Netball Club opposes all forms of harassment, discrimination and bullying. We take this issue seriously and encourage anyone who believes that they, or another person, has been harassed, discriminated against or bullied should report this in this first instance to the club officials.

### **Use of language and tone of voice**

Language and tone of voice used in the presence of Children and Young People should:

- provide clear direction, boost their confidence, encourage or affirm them;
- not be harmful – therefore, avoid language that is intended to be, or is received or likely to be received by the individual it is directed at or any other person
- not be discriminatory, racist or sexist;
- derogatory, belittling or negative, for example, by calling a Child or Young Person a 'loser' or telling them they are 'too fat';
- threatening or frightening; and /or

- profane or sexual.

### **Use of electronic communications**

Other than between Children and Young People (under the age of 18 years), wherever possible, social media messages (such as text, email, Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat etc) sent to a Child or Young Person by a Person in a Position of Responsibility and/or Authority should be copied to their parent or carer.

### **Photographs of Children and Young People**

Children and Young People can be photographed while involved in an netball training, games, events such as presentations, carnivals etc only if:

- prior approval has been granted by their parents/guardian
- the context is directly related to participation in Netball;
- the Child or Young Person is appropriately dressed and posed; and
- the image is taken in the presence of other Persons in Positions of Responsibility and Authority

Except in the case of Children and Young People and/or their parents/carers distributing photos of themselves or their own children to each other or to others, images are not to be distributed (including an attachment to an email) to anyone outside Persons in Positions of Responsibility and Authority other than the child photographed or their parent/carer, without knowledge and approval of a Senior Person.

Images (digital or hard copy) are to be stored in a manner that prevents unauthorised access by others, for example:

- if in hard copy form, in a locked drawer or cabinet; or
- if in electronic form, in a 'password protected' folder.

Images (digital or hard copy) are to be destroyed or deleted as soon as they are no longer required.

Images are not to be exhibited on any Hectorville Hurricanes Netball Clubs website or social pages without parental/carer knowledge and approval, or such images must be presented in a manner that de-identifies the Child or Young Person. Any caption or accompanying text may need to be checked so that it does not identify a Child or Young Person if such identification is potentially detrimental.

### **Reporting and responding to suspected abuse and neglect**

We, Hectorville Hurricanes Netball Club will not tolerate incidents of child abuse.

We, Hectorville Hurricanes Netball Club are responsible for ensuring that officials are aware how to make appropriate reports of abuse or neglect.

Officials must notify the Child Abuse Report Line on 13 14 78 as soon as practicable if they have a reasonable suspicion that a young person has been or is being abused or neglected.

We will also provide opportunities for officials to undertake child safe environment training.

A person does not necessarily exhaust his or her duty of care to a child by making a report to the Child Abuse Report Line – they may still have a role in supporting the child or young person. For example, officials and volunteers may also report any form of abuse to the committee of Hectorville Hurricanes Netball Club and take all reasonable steps to keep the child and others safe.

The Hectorville Hurricanes Netball Club will support any official that makes a report to the Child Abuse Report Line.

### **Strategies to minimise risk**

Hectorville Hurricanes Netball Club takes steps to minimise the risks to children due to the actions or omissions of officials, volunteers or other people within our club. We review our risks regularly to address any new or emerging risks in order to maintain a safe environment for children.

Strategies we have implemented to minimise and control risks to children and young people include:

- High risk situations are addressed in our Code of Conduct
- All officials are required to abide by our child safe policy
- Committee, officials and other volunteers are aware of and are responsive to the particular needs and vulnerabilities of children and young people (such as age, language barriers, developmental capabilities, disability, mental health, trauma or abuse)
- All parents and caregivers are made aware that young children (not participating in the sporting programme) must be supervised at all times and are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver.
- Officials provide clear age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate explanations to children and young people about the activities in which they are going to participate.
- Where training requires physical contact, officials will communicate this with the child, young person.
- Officials confirm the identity of any child participating in activities within the club.
- We respond to any concerns that children, or their families or carers raise with us quickly and fairly
- Officials understand their obligation to notify the Child Abuse Report Line on 13 14 78 as soon as practicable if they have a reasonable suspicion that a child or young person has been or is being abused or neglected.
- We ensure a physically and socially safe environment for children and young people, that is free of any identifiable hazards.

Evaluation of these strategies and the development of additional strategies to minimise and control risks to children and young people occurs as part of our ongoing risk management process.

### **Related Policies and Procedures**

The following policies and procedures also support the Hectorville Hurricanes Netball Club child safe policy:

Related policies include:

- Code of Conduct
- Selection of committee and officials, including those relating to conducting criminal history assessment
- Occupational Health and Safety Policies.

Signed: Raegan Coleman  
Hectorville Netball Club Chairperson

Date: 13/7/2021

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