



EAST COAST BAYS ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB

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EAST COAST BAYS ASSN FOOTBALL CLUB

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

1. Child Protection Policy Statement

East Coast Bays AFC (ECBAFC) has a responsibility to help safeguard all children involved in events organised under the auspices of ECBAFC from harm. All children have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account.

ECBAFC will help to ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in ECBAFC activities through adherence to this Policy. ECBAFC shall appoint a member of the Board or another member of the organisation to be the Child Protection Officer.

East Coast Bays AFC will promote this policy and awareness and understanding of child protection.

For the purposes of this policy, a child is defined as a person under the age of 17 and those 17 or over with special needs. ECBAFC shall work to protect all children and young persons under the age of 17 even where the law may not recognise the need for such protection.

2. Policy Aims

The aim of the ECBAFC Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice:

- 2.1 Providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst involved in ECBAFC activities.
- 2.2 Allowing all staff, volunteers, coaches, officials and parents to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

- 2.3 Helping to prevent the possibility of false accusations.
- 2.4 Protecting the organisation and our community against the damage what would result if a child under our care was abused.

3. Abuse

Child abuse means the harming (whether physically, emotionally or sexually), ill-treatment or abuse of any child. Abuse includes physical, sexual, emotional and verbal abuse.

Good practice guidelines

Everyone involved in the sport should strive to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to protect themselves from false allegations. Volunteers, coaches, officials and parents are expected to follow these good practice guidelines during any activity or training for any activity held under the auspices of the ECBAFC. Concerns over failure to follow these guidelines should be reported to the Club Manager.

Good practice means:

- 4.1 Always working in an open environment avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication.
- 4.2 Treating all children/disabled adults equally with respect and dignity.
- 4.3 Always putting the welfare of each child first.
- 4.4 Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with children (e.g. it is not appropriate for volunteers, coaches or officials to have an intimate relationship with a child.
- 4.5 Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust and empowering children to share in decision making.
- 4.6 Making sport fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play.
- 4.7 Keeping up to date with technical skills, qualifications and insurance.
- 4.8 Involving parents/carers wherever possible. For example, encouraging them to take responsibility for their children in the changing rooms. If groups have to be supervised in the changing rooms, always ensure parents, team managers, coaches or officials work in pairs.
- 4.9 Ensuring that if mixed teams are taken away for the day or night, they should be accompanied by both a male and female chaperone or team leader when practical. Always remember that same gender abuse can also occur.
- 4.10 Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism.

- 4.11 Recognising the developmental needs and capacity of children and disabled adults – avoiding excessive training or competition and not pushing them against their will.
- 4.12 Securing parental consent in writing to act in loco parentis, if the need arises to administer emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment.
- 4.13 Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.

5 Practices which must be avoided

The following must be avoided except in emergencies. If a case arises where these situations are unavoidable (e.g. the child needs urgent and acute medical care, or a parent fails to arrive to pick a child up at the end of an event), it should be with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge or the child's parents. The circumstances of any exceptions must be reported in detail to the Club Manager within 48 hours.

Practices never to be sanctioned:

The following are never sanctioned, coaches, officials, and volunteers should never, while involved in an activity or training for any activity held under the auspices of ECBAFC.

- 5.1 Engage in rough physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- 5.2 Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- 5.3 Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- 5.4 Make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even in fun.
- 5.5 Reduce a child to tears as a form of control.
- 5.6 Engage in any form of verbal or emotional abuse.
- 5.7 Encourage a child to engage in bullying or abuse.
- 5.8 Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon.
- 5.9 Do things of a personal nature for children or disabled adults that they can do for themselves.
- 5.10 Make overnight stopovers travelling to or from an event unless the stopover has been organised by ECBAFC as a part of a team's travel or the children are travelling with their parent(s).

Otherwise, avoid:

- 5.16 Spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.

5.17 Taking or dropping off a child to an event unless accompanied by another adult or other children.

6. Use of photographic/filming equipment at events

Organisers of competitions and tournaments and should ensure everyone photographing or filming events has a connection to the sport or is from the media. Except for media and officially appointed photographers and videographers and those operating video cameras for the judging system, those photographing or filming should be required to sign a form identifying them and that prevents distribution of any recordings.

7. Reporting abuse, or suspicions of abuse or poor practice

Disclosure by a child, suspicions and concerns of abuse or poor practice or violations of this policy should be brought to the attention of the Club Secretary. It is important that any such concerns are communicated to the Club Secretary so that patterns of suspicious behaviour or unsafe practices may be monitored and recorded. You do not need to have proof, nor should you wait for proof before reporting your concerns. Do not look the other way. Do not assume that someone else will act. The Club Secretary will liaise with all parties involved and write a report and recommendations to be submitted to the Control Board for review.

FORMULATED	22.11.2012
APPROVED S. Buckley
REVIEWED	1.9.2018
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