

Memo

To Association Executives, Netball NSW Life Members
From Matt Allen, Policy and Member Protection Manager
CC Melissa Achten, General Manager Communities
Date Thursday, 3 March 2022
Re **New Policy – NSW Child Safeguarding Policy**

The Netball NSW Board has approved a new Netball NSW Child Safeguarding Policy for implementation and adoption from 15 February 2022. This policy has been uploaded to the Netball NSW website and can be accessed by clicking the following link: <https://nsw.netball.com.au/policies> or <https://nsw.netball.com.au/member-protection-framework>.

What is The Child Safeguarding Policy?

The Netball NSW Child Safeguarding Policy is a new policy which is designed to ensure that Netball NSW is meeting its obligations as a 'Child Safe Organisation'. Late last year, the NSW parliament passed amendments to the Children's Guardian Act 2019 which embedded the 10 'Child Safe Standards' in NSW legislation, making these standards compulsory for all organisations engaged in child-related work. The 10 Child Safe Standards have been developed in response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into institutional child abuse. This new policy ensures that Netball NSW has policies and procedures in place which embed child safe practices at all levels of the organisation and similarly assists our affiliated clubs and associations to embed the standards in their own organisations. The Child Safe Standards apply to all organisations engaged in child-related work. This means that Netball NSW and all affiliated clubs and associations must implement the standards in their policies practices and procedures. More information about the child safe standards are available [here](#).

What does this mean for your club/association?

Every club associated with Netball NSW should adopt and implement the Netball NSW Child Safeguarding Policy and make this publicly available to all their members. Clubs and associations should also begin to think about how they can implement the Child Safe Standards into their own policies, practices and procedures.

However, the most important thing to remember is that this is not a huge or burdensome project. As an affiliate of Netball NSW you will already be doing much of what is required of you. Additionally, Netball NSW and the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian are here to help and will be providing a range of tools and resources to assist you in the implementation of the new Safeguarding Policy and the 10 Child Safe Standards within your organisation. Further information about the available resources can be found [here](#).

Key Elements of the New Policy

The key elements of the new Netball NSW Child Safeguarding Policy are as follows:

- This Policy sets out the standards of behaviour expected of those involved in Netball, and the behaviours that are not acceptable ('Prohibited Conduct'). A breach of this policy will be treated as a breach of the Netball NSW Member Protection Policy and will be dealt with in accordance with the complaint handling procedures set out in Attachment B to the MPP.
- Outlines reporting obligations for NNSW and Affiliate Staff, Volunteers and Contractors, including legislative failure to report obligations.
- Provides a clear framework for responding to allegations or suspicions of child abuse.
- Makes a public 'Commitment Statement' regarding child safe practices on behalf of Netball NSW (which should be amended and adopted by affiliated clubs and associations).
- Creates a clear recruitment and screening process.

For further clarification on any of the above, or if you would like to discuss any aspect of the new Netball NSW Child Safeguarding Policy, please contact the Netball NSW Policy and Member Protection team at policy@netballnsw.com.