



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Everyone who plays AFL has the right to Be Safe, Feel Safe, Play Safe.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The AFL acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge we play our great game on this land and respect the cultures of all First Peoples, their contribution to our nation and contribution to the game of Australian Rules Football.

We would also like to acknowledge any victim survivors of child abuse who may be here today. Know that we hear you and your voice matters.

INTRODUCTION



Sam Dellamarta
Safeguarding Consultant



Dellamarta Consulting provides specialist safeguarding services to build an organisation's capacity to keep children, young people and the community safe.

Samantha Dellamarta

- Criminal Justice degree
- Training, auditing, investigating
- 15 years experience working with children and young people
- 5 years in private consulting
- Collingwood and Rabbitohs supporter



SESSION 1 – RECAP

1. What is safeguarding?
2. What is abuse?
3. What are our obligations?
4. What do we need to do?

NOW, NEXT & AGAIN

NOW

1. Put **SAFEGUARDING** on the committee agenda as a standing item
2. Ask all committee members and other relevant roles to **watch this recording**
3. Choose your **Safeguarding Lead**
4. Ask them to complete the **Safe Footy Check in Tool**
5. Promote the **AFL Safeguarding Resources**
6. Continue to attend these sessions for more detailed information!

SESSION 2 – QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

1. Your Questions - addressing the questions raised since the last session
2. Where do I find.....? - navigating the resources together
3. Your Questions, again - opening the floor to questions from the participants
4. Next session – what to expect in the next session



1. YOUR QUESTIONS

Addressing the questions raised since the last session

KEY THEMES

- Child Safeguarding in senior clubs
- Sharing & distributing information
- Working with other child safety agencies
- Child Safe Officers / Safeguarding Lead
- Moving from current to new
- Quick access policies & procedures
- Working with Children Checks

CHILD SAFEGUARDING IN SENIOR CLUBS - Q

- How will this work in senior clubs?
- We are a football / netball club in a small country league that does not have a junior football competition (boys or girls), however we do have junior netball teams, and multiple kids involved in boundary umpiring/ water boys and girls etc. I assume that we'll still be able to follow the guidelines (policy templates etc) presented in these education sessions?

CHILD SAFEGUARDING IN SENIOR CLUBS - A

- Yes! Everything we are covering will still apply.

SHARING & DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION - Q

- What is the best way to disseminate all this information to all the different parties? Parents, children, coaches, committee members, volunteer. We all know emails just get deleted.

SHARING & DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION - A

- Evidence and consultation tells us we need to communicate through a number of channels and methods (NUDGE!)
- These are listed in the resources (link) but some ideas are: a/b/c
- We need to continue to share the messages on a rotation / not just once

WORKING WITH OTHER CHILD SAFETY AGENCIES - Q

In advance of the next session, I'd be grateful if you were able to untangle the web of Child Wise, Good Sports, SALT organisations in the safeguarding children space? We get a raft of emails from all of them requesting we develop policies, do checklists etc.

My question is if, through attendance at your webinars and implementing the now, next and again model for compliance, have we got safeguarding children covered or do we need to continue to engage with these other organisations?

WORKING WITH OTHER CHILD SAFETY AGENCIES - A

- You can use / access / engage whoever you want but what we offer here is
- Free
- Accessible
- Tailored specifically to football clubs

- This is designed to help you move towards compliance, you wont need to double up.

CHILD SAFE OFFICERS / SAFEGUARDING LEAD - Q

- The role of CSO and strategies for driving compliance.
- Child Safe Officer v Safeguarding Lead - Can you please clarify these roles? Are clubs mandated to have an official Child Safe Officer? I understood the Safeguarding Lead was the person who would roll out initiatives around child safeguarding, not necessarily an official appointment. Are these roles different?

CHILD SAFE OFFICERS / SAFEGUARDING LEAD - A

- Not different, essentially the same thing.
- CSO is there to drive preventative activities / undertake actions for compliance and respond to issues
- If you have a CSO, make them the Safeguarding Lead.
- If you don't, make someone the SL as an interim until you app a CSO
- Yes, mandated to have a CSO (?)
- Safeguarding portfolio at board level too

MOVING FROM CURRENT TO NEW - Q

Can you please provide some specific examples of simple changes that will help the Club that's already covering most standards, cover the new ones?

MOVING FROM CURRENT TO NEW - A

Priorities for shifting from current to new:

- Cultural Safety – you can focus on a/b/c
- Involving families – use families resources
- Continuous improvement – make sure it is standing agenda item
- Use inclusive clubs and people and culture resources

QUICK ACCESS POLICIES & PROCEDURES - Q

It would be great to have quick access to policies and procedures we could all use.

QUICK ACCESS POLICIES & PROCEDURES - A

They are coming. You can add them to your website for quick access. In the interim, follow guidance in resources or AFL policies.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS- Q

Can there please some more information regarding WWCC requirements and who needs them.

Nearly everyone in the club volunteers in some capacity including players i.e. rosters for canteen, gate, etc.

What is the minimum requirement in relation to WWCC? Coaches of teams that have people 18 and under? Any others.

Any information around this would be great.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS- A

State or territory dependent

People & Culture Resource (see image)

Ignore exemptions if you can (police, teachers)

② DO THE BACKGROUND CHECKS

Working with Children Checks (WWCC), or State/Territory equivalent, and National Police Check.

Any adult in a paid or volunteer role in your club, league or association should have a WWCC and have it linked to your club, league, association. It is an important part of creating a culture of safety.

This includes:

- committee members
- coaches and managers (including seniors)
- club medical support (physios, trainers etc)
- position holders (junior coordinators, officials, volunteers)
- any supervising adult on overnight trips.

Clubs, leagues and associations should sight the Working with Children Check card, or state/territory equivalent, and keep a record of who has them.

There are some situations where adults may be exempt from holding a WWCC under state/territory legislation e.g. Police Officer or Teacher. You should still ask them to get one, if they can. This is a different role and we shouldn't make assumptions of people based on their profession.

Regularly run the identification details through the appropriate state/territory checking system. Quarterly is a good idea, but annually as a minimum.

It is best practice for clubs to conduct police checks on those in their club that have regular contact with children and young people ie. Coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers.



2. WHERE DO I FIND...?

Navigating the resources together

INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

Where will I find?

Posters I can put up for younger children

Information about the Rights & Responsibilities of young people

The different ways young people can raise their concerns

Examples of what abuse might look like so families know what to look out for



INFORMATION FOR COACHES, UMPIRES OR OFFICIALS?

Where will I find?

What behaviours are expected umpires and officials?

Information about the Rights & Responsibilities of young people

Tips for maintaining good, clear boundaries in my role

Examples of good, safe communication



INFORMATION FOR CLUBS

Where will I find?

Guidance around
overnight travel?

A form to get approval
for travel

Support for recruiting
safe people as
volunteers

Ideas for making our
club more inclusive





3. YOUR QUESTIONS, AGAIN?

Opening the floor to questions from the participants.





4. NEXT SESSION

What to expect in the next session.



NEXT SESSIONS

MAY FOCUS SESSIONS

In these sessions we will focus on a specific cohort within your club, & consider the actions your club can be taking to ensure the Child Safe Standards are fully implemented.

May 3, 7:30 PM - Club Education

May 17, 7:30 PM - Game Day Personnel Education

May 31, 7:30 PM - Community Education



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT RESOURCES

Support, education and resources for clubs

AFL Safeguarding Children Portal

Suite of resources and useful links to help foster a safe and welcoming environment for children and young people in football



<https://www.afl.com.au/clubhelp/safeguarding-children>

Safeguarding Children Resources



Kids (5-12)

We welcome all children from all backgrounds and abilities to play in our game



Young People (13-18)

We want all kids who participate in footy to be safe, feel safe, play safe



Families and Community

All adults, including parents and carers, are expected to play their part in keeping children and young people safe in football



Coaches and Volunteers

Coaches and volunteers across AFL programs and community clubs are required to follow safeguarding policies, procedures and codes



Further Links

List of sources that help promote and maintain the safeguarding of children



Safeguarding Children

Safeguarding resources to support participants and those who deliver and community football



AFL Diversity & Inclusion Portal

Information, resources, tools and free online training to help prevent and deal with integrity issues and concerns in sport



<https://www.afl.com.au/clubhelp/diversity>

Play By The Rules

Information, resources, tools and free online training to help prevent and deal with integrity issues and concerns in sport



<https://www.playbytherules.net.au>





THANK YOU & STAY SAFE

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