



Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy

Purpose

The South Australian Rifle Association and Affiliated Clubs recognizes the need to ensure protective practices for children and young people (under 18 years of age). The intention of this policy is to keep them safe (inclusive of cultural safety) from deliberate or inadvertent harm or risk of harm. This policy provides personnel involved with The South Australian Rifle Association and Affiliated Clubs with an understanding of their responsibilities to keep children and young people safe. All children and young people have a right to be safe from harm and the risk of harm, regardless of age, culture, religion, gender, sexuality, identity or disability.

Context

This policy is in line with *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016*, *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* and is based on the National Principles for Child Safe Organizations.

All activities involving Children and Young People that form part of the Association's activities need to follow the *National Rifle Association of Australia Rules* and the *Firearms Act 2015* and the South Australian *Firearms Regulations 2017*.

Reference:

CHILD PROTECTION OBLIGATIONS – SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Department for Child Protection – Mandatory Reporting

Scope

This policy applies to all staff, members, coaches, advisors, and volunteers (personnel) working with children and young people across clubs and activities.

This policy is available at all Clubs, on the SARA website and is included in staff and Board Induction pack.

Policy Detail

All children and young people participating in the sporting activities that come under the governance of the South Australian Rifle Association, will be under the continuous supervision of, his or her parent or guardian or some other person approved by his or her parent or guardian. (Firearms Act)

Any member, excluding parent or guardian, involved in the training, coaching or supervision of a child or young person must have the appropriate Working with Children Check.

**SARA will:**

- maintain a register of Children and Young People participating in the sport.
- maintain a register of members with a Working with Children Clearance
- facilitate mandatory reporting and Working with Children training for staff and members on a regular basis.
- remind Clubs of their responsibilities to provide a child safe environment on a regular basis.
- assist Clubs in the management of any suspected reportable obligations.

All Clubs will:

- ensure the Children and Young people have an appropriate orientation and have a nominated Mentor when participating in club activities.
- set clear boundaries about appropriate behaviour between their members and children and young people in their clubs – boundaries help everyone to understand their roles.
- display information relating to the reporting of a child or young person that may be at harmed or at risk of harm.
- ensure members are aware of the policy and their obligations.
- have authority for the Club Captain to stand the member down who has been reported until the matter is resolved. This information will be reported to SARA.

All Members will: (Code of Conduct)

- treat everyone (this includes staff, volunteers, students, children, young people and parents) including those of different race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability or attributes and religious beliefs with respect and honesty and ensure equity is upheld.
- be a positive role model to children and young people in all conduct with them.
- listen and respond appropriately to the views and concerns of children and young people.
- be alert to bullying and harassment behaviours and respond promptly and appropriately as this behaviour is not tolerated.
- ensure another adult is always present or in sight when conducting one to one coaching, instruction or other activity involving a child or young person.
- be alert to children and young people who have been harmed, or may be at risk of harm and reporting this quickly to the Child Abuse Report Line (13 14 78).
- respond quickly, fairly and transparently to any complaints made by a child, young person or their parent/guardian.
- encourage children and young people to 'have a say' on issues that are important to them.

**Members Making a Report**

Harm or suspected risk of harm should be Child Abuse Report Line (13 14 78) and the Club Captain notified that a report has been made. In the case of immediate risk, this will be reported to the police.

Reporting must be based on reasonable belief. The level of belief is set at deliberately low threshold that enables authorities to investigate and take action.

- Report suspected abuse, neglect, or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities.
- Follow the Mandatory Reporting Guidelines.
- Be mindful of the Privacy and Confidentiality of all concerned. (Policy)
- Share information appropriately and lawfully with authorities and referral services where the safety and wellbeing of younger students is at risk.
- Maintain personal notes.

Child, Young Person or Parent Making a Complaint

Any child, young person or parent can make a complaint to a member of the Club or the Association either in writing or verbally. Verbal complaints should be followed up in writing. All complaints will be taken seriously and will be acted on immediately. The complainant will be supported and kept informed of the process.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in 3 years (2026) or if there are changes to legislation.

Reviewed: 25/05/2023