



Child Safe Policy

1. Policy Statement

Bowls Victoria (**BV**) is committed to meeting the expectations of the Victorian Child Safe Standards and ensuring that children and young people who participate in BV events and activities have a safe and happy experience.

2. Scope & Responsibility

This Policy applies to participants, parents, spectators, contractors, officials, coaches, volunteers and staff and establishes the expectations and obligations on all parties for their behaviour with children and young people.

3. Aims

BV aims to protect the safety of children in our care and prevent abuse from occurring. If an allegation of inappropriate conduct is raised, BV will ensure that the allegation is properly addressed consistent with BV's child safe strategies and procedures as revised from time to time.

4. Implementation Overview

Bowls Victoria has a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is committed to promoting and protecting children and young people by:

- taking a proactive approach to the prevention of child abuse by identifying, removing and/or reducing risks;
- encouraging the reporting of allegations when there is concern about the safety, health or wellbeing of children and young people;
- providing mechanisms that are child-friendly and easy to understand so children and young people who may be subject to abuse are able to report allegations themselves;
- treating all allegations seriously by fully investigating and handling any allegations confidentially to the degree that is possible under the law;
- cooperating with the directions of the state Police and/or Department of Health & Human Services in relation to any investigation conducted by these authorities;
- keeping a register of any allegations regarding inappropriate conduct;
- undertaking a comprehensive recruitment and screening process for all staff and volunteers; and
- promoting best practices in relation to child safety.

Supplementary information and procedures have been adopted by BV to demonstrate compliance with the prescribed Standards.

5. Evaluation

Data on allegations of inappropriate conduct and the outcome of any investigations into the alleged conduct will be maintained on an ongoing basis, reviewed at least annually and reported to the Board by the Chief Executive Officer.

An analysis of any reports may lead to revisions in the policy or in implementation guidelines as appropriate.

Policy Checklist:

Legislation Compliance (where appropriate)	<u>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)</u> <u>Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015 (Vic)</u> <u>Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)</u> <u>Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic) as amended from time to time</u>
Applicable Documents	BV Policies/Procedures and other BV Documents: Child Safe Policy (Standard 2) Child Safe Code of Conduct (Standard 3) Child Safe Supporting Information & Procedures (Standard 5 & 6) Child Safe Reporting Process (Standard 5) Child Safe Incident Report (Standard 5) Risk Management Policy (Standard 6) Member Protection Policy Privacy Policy Whistleblower Policy
BV Strategic Plan Alignment (where appropriate)	Child Safe practices shall apply across implementation of all goals within the Strategic Plan.
BV Budget Implications (where appropriate)	Allowances shall be made in the annual budget for training as needed and legal advice if required.

Review History and Version Control

The BV Child Safe Policy will be reviewed every two years.

Version	Prepared	Reviewed	Approved	Date Approved
1.0	Strategic Business Analyst	Governance Committee	Board	20/11/2018
2.0	Chief Executive Officer	Governance Committee	Board	19/11/2020