

***Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria  
MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY***

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454 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong Vic. 3144 Ph. 03 9822 8876

[www.blindsports.org.au](http://www.blindsports.org.au)  
[info@blindsports.org.au](mailto:info@blindsports.org.au)

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## **MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY**

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### **1. Introduction**

Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria (BSRV) is recognised by Sport and Recreation Victoria as the State Sporting Association responsible for the development, promotion and support of sporting and recreational opportunities for blind and vision impaired people throughout Victoria.

#### **Our Vision:**

Victorians who are blind or vision impaired are able to lead physically active lives through participation in sport and active recreation.

#### **Our Mission:**

Educate, support, advocate and further assist the development of sport and active recreational opportunities to enhance the lives of Victorians who are blind or vision impaired.

#### **Our Values:**

- Leadership
- Inclusion
- Participation
- Collaboration
- Respect
- Human Rights

### **2. Purpose of Our Policy**

The main objective of BSRV's Member Protection Policy is to maintain responsible behaviour and the making of informed decisions by members and other participants in this Club. It outlines our commitment to a person's right to be treated with respect and dignity; and to be safe and protected from discrimination, harassment and abuse. Our policy informs everyone involved in our Club of his or her legal and ethical rights and responsibilities and the standards of behaviour that are expected of them. It also covers the care and protection of children participating in our Club's activities.

### **3. Who Our Policy Applies To**

This policy applies to everyone involved in the activities of our Club, whether they are in a paid or unpaid/voluntary capacity and including:

- Club Executive Committee members, Administrators and other Club officials
- coaches and assistant coaches and other personnel participating in events and activities, including camps and training sessions
- support personnel; including drivers
- referees, umpires and other officials
- athletes
- members
- parents and siblings
- volunteers
- spectators and
- friends of members
- members of other Clubs, State Sporting Associations and organisations participating in BSRV programs.

### **4. Extent of Our Policy**

Our policy covers all matters directly and indirectly related to BSRV and its activities. In particular, the policy governs unfair selection decisions and actions, breaches of our code of behaviour and behaviour that occurs at programs, other venues, at social events organised or sanctioned by the

Club and on overnight trips and camps. It also covers private behaviour, where that behaviour brings our Club or blind sports and recreation activities into disrepute or there is suspicion of harm towards a child or young person.

## 5. Club Responsibilities

We will:

- adopt, implement and comply with this policy
- ensure that this policy is enforceable
- publish, distribute and promote this policy and the consequences of any breaches of this policy
- promote and model appropriate standards of behaviour at all times
- deal with any complaints made under this policy in an appropriate manner
- deal with any breaches of this policy in an appropriate manner
- recognise and enforce any penalty imposed under this policy
- ensure that a copy of this policy is available or accessible to all people and organisations to whom this policy applies
- review this policy every 12-18 months; and
- seek advice from and refer serious issues to our National Body
- Serious issues include unlawful behaviour that involves or could lead to significant harm and includes criminal behaviour (eg physical assault, sexual assault, child abuse) and not complying with the Victorian Sports Anti-Doping policy, which BSRV supports and has adopted.

## 6. Individual Responsibilities

Everyone associated with our Club must:

- make themselves aware of the contents of this policy;
- comply with all relevant provisions of this policy, including the standards of behaviour outlined in this policy
- consent to the screening requirements set out in this policy, and a Victorian Working with Children check if the person holds or applies for a role that involves regular unsupervised contact with a child or young person under the age of 18, or where otherwise required by law
- Comply with the Victorian Government anti-doping policy titled 'Victorian Sports Anti-Doping policy', as outlined in the URL link [Anti-doping - Sport and Recreation Victoria](#)
- treat other people with respect
- always place the safety and welfare of children above other considerations
- be responsible and accountable for their behaviour
- follow the guidelines outlined in this policy if they wish to make a complaint or report a concern about possible child abuse, discrimination, harassment, bullying or other inappropriate behaviour; and
- comply with any decisions and/or disciplinary measures imposed under this policy.

## 7. Protection of Children

### 7.1 Child Protection

BSRV is committed to the safety and well-being of children and young people who participate in our Club's activities or use our services. We support the rights of the child and will act at all times to ensure that a child-safe environment is maintained. We also support the rights and well-being of our staff and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure and safe environment for all participants.

BSRV acknowledges the valuable contribution made by our staff, members and volunteers and we encourage their active participation in providing a safe, fair and inclusive environment for all participants.

#### 7.1.1: Identifying and Analysing Risks of Harm

BSRV will develop and implement a risk management strategy, which includes a review of our existing child protection practices, to determine how child-safe our organisation is; and to identify any additional steps we can take to minimise and prevent the risk of harm to children because of the action of an employee, volunteer or another person.

#### **7.1.2: Developing Codes of Conduct for Adults and Children**

We will develop and promote a code of conduct that specifies standards of conduct and care we expect of adults when they deal and interact with children, particularly those in our care. We will also implement a code of conduct to promote appropriate behaviour between children.

The codes will clearly describe professional boundaries, ethical behaviour and unacceptable behavior.

#### **7.1.3: Choosing Suitable Employees and Volunteers**

BSRV will ensure that the organisation takes all reasonable steps to engage the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children, especially those in positions that involve regular unsupervised contact with children. This may be achieved using a range of screening measures. Such measures will aim to minimise the likelihood of engaging (or retaining) people who are unsuitable to work with children.

BSRV will ensure that Working with Children Checks and criminal history assessments are conducted for employees and volunteers working with children, where an assessment is required by law. If a criminal history report is obtained as part of the screening process, BSRV will ensure that the criminal history information is dealt with confidentially and in accordance with relevant legal requirements.

#### **7.1.4: Support, Train, Supervise and Enhance Performance**

BSRV will ensure that all our employees and volunteers who work with children have ongoing supervision; support and training. Our goal is to develop their skills and capacity and to enhance their performance, so we can maintain a child-safe environment in our Club.

#### **7.1.5: Empower and Promote the Participation of Children in Decision-Making and Service Development**

BSRV will promote the involvement and participation of children and young people in developing and maintaining a child-safe environment in our Club.

#### **7.1.6: Report and Respond Appropriately to Suspected Abuse and Neglect**

BSRV will ensure that employees and volunteers are able to identify and respond appropriately to children at risk of harm and that they are aware of their responsibilities under state laws to make a report if they suspect on reasonable ground that a child has been, or is being, abused or neglected (See Attachment 3).

In addition to any legal obligations, if any person believes that another person or organisation bound by this policy is acting inappropriately towards a child or is in breach of this policy, they may make an internal complaint.

Please refer to our complaints procedure in section 10 of this policy.

Any person who believes a child is in immediate danger or in a life-threatening situation, should contact the police immediately.

## **7.2 Supervision**

Children under the age of 18 must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. We endeavour to provide an appropriate level of supervision at all times. If a member finds a child under the age of 18 is unsupervised, they should assume responsibility for the child's safety until the child's parent/guardian or supervisor is located.

For reasons of courtesy and safety, parents must collect their children on time. If it appears a member will be left alone with just one child at the end of any club activity, they will ask another member to stay until the child is collected.

### 7.3 Transportation

Parents and/or guardians are responsible for organising the transportation of their children to and from Club activities (eg training programs). In the event we make arrangements for the transportation of children (eg for trips away), we will conduct a risk assessment that includes ensuring vehicles are adequately insured, the driver has a current and appropriate licence for the vehicle being used and the appropriate safety measures are in place (eg fitted working seatbelts).

### 7.4 Taking Images of Children

Images of children cannot be used inappropriately or illegally. We require that members, wherever possible, obtain permission from a child's parent or guardian before taking an image of a child that is not their own. We will also make sure that the parent or guardian understands how the image will be used.

To respect people's privacy, we do not allow camera phones, videos and cameras to be used inside changing areas, showers and toilets which we control or are used in connection with our Club.

When using a photo of a child, we will not name or identify the child or publish personal information, such as residential address, email address or telephone number, without the consent of the child's parent or guardian. We will not provide information about a child's hobbies, interests, school or similar, as this can be used by paedophiles or other persons to "groom" a child.

We will only use images of children that are relevant to our Club's activities and we will ensure that they are suitably clothed in a manner that promotes our Club. We will seek permission from a child's parent or guardian before using their images.

## 8. Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying

Our Club is committed to providing an environment in which people are treated fairly and equitably, with respect, integrity and that is, as far as practicable, free from all forms of discrimination, harassment and bullying.

We recognise that people may not be able to enjoy themselves or perform at their best if they are treated unfairly, discriminated against, harassed or bullied.

### 8.1 Discrimination

Unlawful discrimination involves the less favourable treatment of a person on the basis of one or more of the personal characteristics protected by State or Federal anti-discrimination laws.

Discrimination includes both direct and indirect discrimination:

- **Direct discrimination** occurs if a person treats, or proposes to treat, a person with a protected personal characteristic unfavourably because of that personal characteristic.
- **Indirect discrimination** occurs if a person imposes, or proposes to impose, a requirement, condition or practice that will disadvantage a person with a protected personal characteristic and that requirement, condition or practice is not reasonable.

For the purpose of determining discrimination, the offender's awareness and motive are irrelevant.

## 8.2 Harassment

Harassment is any unwelcome conduct, verbal or physical, that intimidates, offends or humiliates another person and which happens because a person has a certain personal characteristic protected by State or Federal anti-discrimination legislation.

The offensive behaviour does not have to take place a number of times, a single incident can constitute harassment.

Sexual harassment is one type of harassment. Sexual harassment involves unwelcome conduct, remarks or innuendo of a sexual nature. It covers a wide range of behaviours and can be verbal, written, visual or physical. Sexual harassment is not limited to members of the opposite sex.

Every person is covered by the anti-discrimination laws that apply in their State, as well as the Federal anti-discrimination laws.

The following is a list of all the personal characteristics that apply throughout Australia:

- gender
- race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, nationality, ethno-religious origin, immigration
- national extraction or social origin
- marital status, relationship status, identity of spouse or domestic partner
- pregnancy, potential pregnancy, breastfeeding
- family or carer responsibilities, status as a parent or carer
- age
- religion, religious beliefs or activities
- political beliefs or activities
- lawful sexual activity
- sexual orientation and gender identity
- profession, trade, occupation or calling
- irrelevant criminal record, spent convictions
- irrelevant medical record
- member of association or organisation of employees or employers, industrial activity, trade union activity
- physical features
- disability, mental or physical impairment
- defence service; and
- personal association with someone who has, or is assumed to have, any of these personal characteristics.

Legislation also prohibits:

- racial, religious, homosexual, transgender and HIV/AIDS vilification; and
- victimisation resulting from a complaint.

## 8.3 Bullying

BSRV is committed to providing an environment that is free from bullying. We understand that bullying has the potential to result in significant negative consequences for an individual's health and well-being, and we regard bullying in all forms as unacceptable at our Club.

Bullying is characterised by repeated, unreasonable behaviour directed at a person, or group of persons, that creates a risk to health and safety. Bullying behaviour is that which a reasonable person in the circumstances would expect to victimise, humiliate, undermine, threaten, degrade, offend or intimidate a person. Bullying behaviour can include actions of an individual or group.

Whilst generally characterised by repeated behaviours, one-off instances can amount to bullying.

The following types of behaviour, where repeated or occurring as part of a pattern of behaviour, would be considered bullying:

- verbal abuse including shouting, swearing, teasing, making belittling remarks or persistent unjustified criticism
- excluding or isolating a group or person
- spreading malicious rumours; or
- psychological harassment such as intimidation.

Bullying includes cyber-bullying which occurs through the use of technology. New technologies and communication tools, such as smartphones and social networking websites, have greatly increased the potential for people to be bullied through unwanted and inappropriate comments. We will not tolerate abusive, discriminatory, intimidating or offensive statements being made online.

If any person believes they are being, or have been, bullied by another person or organisation bound by this policy, he or she may make a complaint. (Refer to Item 10 of this policy.)

## 9. Inclusive practices

Our Club is welcoming and we will seek to include members from all areas of our community.

The following are examples of some of our inclusive practices.

### 9.1 People with a disability

BSRV will not discriminate against any person because they have a disability. Where it is necessary, we will make reasonable adjustments (eg modifications to equipment and rules) to enable participation.

### 9.2 People from diverse cultures

We will support, respect and encourage people from diverse cultures and religions to participate in our Club and where possible we will accommodate requests for flexibility (eg modifications to uniforms).

### 9.3 Sexual & Gender Identity

All people, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity, are welcome at our Club. We strive to provide a safe environment for participation and will not tolerate any form of discrimination or harassment because of a person's sexuality or gender identity.

### 9.4 Pregnancy

BSRV is committed to treating pregnant women fairly and to removing any unreasonable barriers to their full participation in our Club's activities. We will not tolerate any discrimination or harassment against pregnant women.

We will take reasonable care to ensure the continuing safety, health and well-being of pregnant women. We will advise pregnant women that there may be risks involved with their continuing participation in sport, and we will encourage them to obtain medical advice about those risks. Pregnant women should be aware that their own health and well-being, and that of their unborn child, is of utmost importance in their decision-making about the extent they choose to participate in our sport.

We encourage all pregnant women to talk with their medical advisers, make themselves aware of the facts about pregnancy in sport and ensure that they make informed decisions about their participation in our sport. Pregnant women should make these decisions themselves, in



consultation with their medical advisers and in discussion with BSRV. We will only require pregnant women to sign a disclaimer in relation to their participation in our sport whilst they are pregnant if all other participants are required to sign one in similar circumstances. We will not require women to undertake a pregnancy test.

If a pregnant woman believes she is being, or has been, harassed or discriminated against by another person bound by this policy, she may make a complaint (see section 10).

#### **9.5 Girls playing in boys' teams**

If there is not a separate sex competition, BSRV will support girls playing in boys' teams up until the age of 12 years.

We note that Federal anti-discrimination laws provide that it is not unlawful to discriminate on grounds of sex by excluding persons from participation in any competitive sporting activity in which the strength, stamina or physique of competitors is relevant.

If a child is over the age of 12 years our Club will consider each request on an individual basis by considering the nature of our sport and other available opportunities to compete.

## 10. Responding to Complaints

### 10.1 Complaints

Our Club takes all complaints about on and off-field behaviour seriously. Our Club will handle complaints based on the principles of procedural fairness, and ensure:

- all complaints will be taken seriously
- the person making the complaint (complainant) will be given full details of what is being alleged against them and have the opportunity to respond to those allegations
- irrelevant matters will not be taken into account
- decisions will be unbiased; and
- any penalties imposed will be reasonable.

More serious complaints may be escalated to our National body.

If the complaint relates to suspected child abuse, sexual assault or other criminal activity, then our Club may need to report the behaviour to the police and/or relevant government authority.

### 10.2 Complaint Handling Process

When a complaint is received by our Club, the person receiving the complaint (eg President, Program Coordinator) will:

- listen carefully and ask questions to understand the nature and extent of the concern
- ask what the complainant how they would like their concern to be resolved and if they need any support
- explain the different options available to help resolve the complainant's concern
- inform the relevant government authorities and/or police, if required by law to do so; and
- where possible and appropriate, maintain confidentiality but not necessarily anonymity.

Once the complainant decides on their preferred option for resolution, the Club will assist, where appropriate and necessary, with the resolution process. This may involve:

- supporting the person complaining to talk to the person being complained about
- bringing all the people involved in the complaint together to talk objectively through the problem (this could include external mediation);
- gathering more information (eg from other people that may have seen the behaviour);
- seeking advice from an external agency (eg State Department of Sport or anti-discrimination agency);
- referring the complaint to our National association; and/or
- referring the complainant to an external agency such as a community mediation centre, the police or the anti-discrimination agency.

In situations where a complaint is referred to a Mediator and an investigation is conducted, the Club will:

- co-operate fully with the investigation
- where applicable, ensure the complainant is not placed in an unsupervised situation with the respondent(s); and
- act on our National Association's recommendations.

At any stage of the process, a person can seek advice from an anti-discrimination commission or other external agency and, if the matter is within their jurisdiction, may lodge a complaint with the anti-discrimination commission or other external agency.

### **10.3 Disciplinary Sanctions**

Our Club may take disciplinary action against anyone found to have breached our policy or made false and malicious allegations. Any disciplinary measure imposed under our policy must:

- be applied consistent with any contractual and employment rules and requirements
- be fair and reasonable
- be based on the evidence and information presented and the seriousness of the breach; and
- be determined by our constituent documents, by Laws and the rules of the game.

Possible sanctions that may be taken include:

- a direction that the individual make a verbal and/or written apology
- counselling of the individual to address behaviour
- withdrawal of any awards, placings, records, achievements bestowed in any tournaments, activities or events held or sanctioned by our Club
- suspension or termination of membership, participation or engagement in a role or activity
- de-registration of accreditation for a period of time or permanently
- a fine; or
- any other form of discipline that our Club considers reasonable and appropriate.

### **10.4 Appeals**

The complainant or respondent may be entitled to lodge an appeal against a decision made in relation to a complaint (including a decision where disciplinary sanctions are imposed by our Club). Appeals must be based on any right of appeal provided for in the relevant constituent documents, rules, regulations or by laws.

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**Attachment 1.1: MEMBER PROTECTION DECLARATION**

BSRV has a duty of care to all those associated with our Club and to the individuals and organisations to whom this policy applies. As a requirement of our Member Protection Policy, we must enquire into the background of those who undertake any work, coaching or regular unsupervised contact with people under the age of 18 years.

I ..... (name) of .....  
 ..... (address) born ...../...../.....

sincerely declare:

1. I do not have any criminal charge pending before the courts.
2. I do not have any criminal convictions or findings of guilt for sexual offences, offences related to children or acts of violence or narcotics.
3. I have not had any disciplinary proceedings brought against me by an employer, sporting organisation or similar body involving child abuse, sexual misconduct or harassment, other forms of harassment or acts of violence or narcotics.
4. To my knowledge there is no other matter that the Club may consider to constitute a risk to its members, employees, volunteers, athletes or reputation by engaging me.
5. I will notify the President of the Club immediately upon becoming aware that any of the matters set out in clauses 1 to 4 above has changed.

Declared in the *State/Territory of* .....  
 on ...../...../.....(date) Signature .....

**Parent/Guardian Consent (in respect of a person under the age of 18 years)**

I have read and understood the declaration provided by my child. I confirm and warrant that the contents of the declaration provided by my child are true and correct in every particular.

Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

## **Attachment 1.2: WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK REQUIREMENTS**

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Working with Children Checks aim to create a child-safe environment and to protect children and young people involved in our sport from physical and sexual harm.

They assess the suitability of people to work with children and young people and can involve:

- criminal history checks
- signed declarations
- referee checks; and
- other relevant background checks to assess a person's suitability to work with children and young people.

Working with Children Check requirements vary across Australia. [Fact Sheets](#) for each state and territory are available on the Play by the Rules website: [www.playbytherules.net](http://www.playbytherules.net)

Detailed information, including the forms required to complete a Working with Children Check, are available from the relevant agencies in each state and territory.

### **Victoria**

Contact the Department of Justice

Website: [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au)

Phone: 1300 652 879

### **Travelling to other states or territories**

It is important to remember that when travelling to other states or territories, representatives of sporting organisations must comply with the legislative requirements of that particular state or territory.

In certain jurisdictions, temporary, time-limited exemptions from Working with Children Checks may be available for interstate visitors with a Working with Children Check in their home state.

The laws providing interstate exemptions are not consistent across Australia.

If an employee or volunteer for your Club is travelling interstate to do work that would normally require a working for children check, you will need to check the relevant requirements of that state or territory.

## **Attachment 2: CODES OF BEHAVIOUR AND DUTY STATEMENTS**

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### ***Coach Code of Behaviour***

You must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by BSRV, a member association or an affiliated club and in your role as a coach appointed by BSRV, a member association or an affiliated club:

- Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
- Provide feedback to players and other participants in a manner sensitive to their needs. Avoid overly negative feedback.
- Recognise players' rights to consult with other coaches and advisers. Cooperate fully with other specialists (for example, sports scientists, doctors and physiotherapists).
- Treat all players fairly within the context of their sporting and recreational activities, regardless of gender, race, place of origin, athletic potential, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, socio-economic status and other conditions.
- Encourage and facilitate players' independence and responsibility for their own behaviour, performance, decisions and actions.
- Involve the players in decisions that affect them.
- Encourage players to respect one another and to expect respect for their worth as individuals regardless of their level of play.
- Ensure that the tasks and/or training set are suitable for age, experience, ability, and physical and psychological conditions of the players.
- Ensure any physical contact with players is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- Be acutely aware of the power that you as a coach develop with your players in the coaching relationship and avoid any sexual intimacy with players that could develop as a result.
- Avoid situations with your players that could be construed as compromising.
- Actively discourage the use of performance enhancing drugs, and the use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances.
- Do not exploit any coaching relationship to further personal, political or business interests at the expense of the best interest of your players.
- Accept and respect the role of officials in ensuring that competitions are conducted fairly and according to established rules.
- Know and abide by rules, regulations and standards, and encourage players to do likewise. Accept both the letter and the spirit of the rules.
- Be honest and ensure that qualifications are not misrepresented.

### ***Officials' Code of Behaviour***

In addition to the BSRV General Code of Behaviour, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by BSRV a member association or an affiliated club and in your role as an official appointed by BSRV:

- Place the safety and welfare of the players/participants above all else.
- Accept responsibility for all actions taken.
- Be impartial.
- Avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest.
- Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction.
- Value the individual in sport.

### ***Official's code of ethics***

- Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else
- Accept responsibility for all actions taken
- Be impartial
- Avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest
- Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction
- Value the individual in sport
- Seek continual self-improvement through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies
- Encourage inclusivity and access to all areas of officiating
- Be a positive role model in behaviour and personal appearance
- Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes
- Refrain from any form of sexual harassment towards athletes
- Show concern and caution towards sick and injured athletes

Officials have the right to expect that:

- their health and safety are paramount
- they are treated with respect and openness
- they are appointed to a level of competition appropriate to their level of competence
- they have access to self-improvement opportunities

### ***Player Code of Behaviour***

In addition to the BSRV General Code of Behaviour, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by BSRV, a member association or an affiliated club and in your role as a player/participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of BSRV, a member association or an affiliated club:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow players, coaches, officials and spectators.
- Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
- Respect the talent, potential and development of fellow players and competitors.
- Care for and respect the equipment provided to you as part of your program.
- Be frank and honest with your coach concerning illness and injury and your ability to train fully within the program requirements.
- At all times avoid intimate relationships with your coach.
- Conduct yourself in a professional manner relating to language, temper and punctuality.
- Maintain high personal behaviour standards at all times.
- Abide by the rules and respect the decision of the official, making all appeals through the formal process and respecting the final decision.
- Be honest in your attitude and preparation to training. Work equally hard for yourself and your team.
- Cooperate with coaches and staff in development of programs to adequately prepare you for competition at the highest level.

### ***Administrator Code of Behaviour***

In addition to BSRV General Code of Behaviour, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held by or under the auspices of BSRV, a member association or an affiliated club and in your role as an administrator of BSRV, a member association or an affiliated club:

- Resolve conflicts fairly and promptly through established procedures.
- Maintain strict impartiality.
- Be aware of your legal responsibilities



## ***Employee Code of Conduct***

Employees are required to:

- Serve BSRV faithfully and diligently exercising all due care
- Act at all times in BSRV's interests
- Refrain from acting or being seen to act, in conflict with BSRV's best interests
- Use your best endeavours to protect and promote BSRV's reputation
- Use your best abilities and knowledge to perform the duties assigned from time to time
- At all times display a thorough and professional manner, upholding and maintaining the organisations reputation, goodwill and its customer relationships; and
- Display the highest ethical and professional standards of service delivery and confidentiality toward BSRV and its members

These duties do not limit your duties of good faith or fidelity to the organisation or any other duties implied at law.

## ***Executive Member Code of Conduct***

As an Executive Member of BSRV, you should meet the following general standards:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others
- Be fair, considerate and honest in all dealings with others
- Be professional in, and accept responsibility for your actions
- Make a commitment to providing quality service
- Be aware of, and maintain an uncompromising adherence to BSRV rules and policies
- Operate within the rules of legalization and contractual boundaries.

Within the Executive, as an Executive Member the following standards should be met:

- Shall at all times act in the best interests of BSRV as a whole.
- Shall act honestly and in good faith at all times in the interest of BSRV and its members, ensuring that all members, particularly those who are in receipt of services, are treated fairly according to their rights.
- Shall carry out their duties in a lawful manner and ensure that BSRV carries out its business in accordance with the law and its own constitution.
- Shall establish BSRV's purpose and key values by which BSRV should work.
- Shall not do anything that in any way denigrates BSRV or harms its public image.

## ***Parent/Guardian Code of Behaviour***

As a parent/guardian of a player/participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of BSRV, a member association or an affiliated club, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any such activity or event:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.
- Remember that your child participates in sport and recreation for their own enjoyment, not yours.
- Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.

- Never ridicule or yell at your child and other children for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Show appreciation for good performance and skillful plays by all players (including opposing players).
- Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with or in the vicinity of persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Do not physically or verbally abuse or harass anyone associated with the sport or recreational activity (player, coach, umpire and so on).
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Be a positive role model.
- Understand the repercussions if you breach, or are aware of any breaches of, this code of behaviour

## ***Spectator Code of Behaviour***

As a spectator in any activity held by or under the auspices of BSRV, a member association or an affiliated club, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any such activity or event

- Respect the decisions of officials and teach young people to do the same.
- Never ridicule or scold a young player for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by other spectators, coaches, officials or players.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Do not use violence, harassment or abuse in any form (that is, do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches, officials or other spectators).
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

## ***General Code of Behaviour***

As a participant of BSRV you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by BSRV, as a member association or an affiliated club and in any role you hold within BSRV: Essentially you agree to -

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.

- Be fair, considerate and honest in all dealing with others.
- Be professional in, and accept responsibility for, your actions.
- Make a commitment to providing quality service.
- Be aware of, and maintain an uncompromising adherence to BSRV standards, rules, regulations and policies.
- Operate within the rules of the sport including national and international guidelines which govern BSRV, the member associations and the affiliated clubs.
- Do not use your involvement with BSRV a member association or an affiliated club to promote your own beliefs, behaviour or practices where these are inconsistent with those of BSRV, a member association or an affiliated club.
- Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.
- Avoid unaccompanied and unobserved activities with persons under 18 years of age, wherever possible.
- Refrain from any form of harassment of others.
- Refrain from any behaviour that may bring BSRV, a member association or an affiliated club into disrepute.
- Provide a safe environment for the conduct of the activity.
- Show concern and caution towards others who may be sick or injured.
- Be a positive role model.
- Understand the repercussions if you breach, or are aware of any breaches of, this code of behaviour.



<p>Nature of complaint (category/basis/grounds)</p> <p>Can tick more than one box</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Harassment or <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sexual/sexist <input type="checkbox"/> Selection dispute <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching methods</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality <input type="checkbox"/> Personality clash <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Race <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying <input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Religion <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Victimization</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Child Abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Unfair decision</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other .....</p>
<p>What they want to happen to fix issue</p>	
<p>Information provided to them</p>	
<p>Resolution and/or action taken</p>	
<p>Follow-up action</p>	

## PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

**If you believe a child is in immediate danger or a life-threatening situation, contact the Police immediately on 000.**

Fact sheets on reporting allegations of child abuse in different states and territories are available at [www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au)

We will treat any allegation of child abuse or neglect promptly, seriously and with a high degree of sensitivity.

All people working with BSRV in a paid or unpaid capacity have a duty to report any concerns to the appropriate authorities, following the steps outlined below.

### Step 1: Receive the allegation

If a child or young person raises with you an allegation of child abuse or neglect that relates to them or to another child, it is important that you listen, stay calm and be supportive.

Do	Don't
Make sure you are clear about what the child has told you	Do not challenge or undermine the child
Reassure the child that what has occurred is not his or her fault	Do not seek detailed information, ask leading questions or offer an opinion.
Explain that other people may need to be told in order to stop what is happening.	Do not discuss the details with any person other than those detailed in these procedures.
Promptly and accurately record the discussion in writing.	Do not contact the alleged offender.

### Step 2: Report the allegation

- Immediately report any allegation of child abuse or neglect, or any situation involving a child at risk of harm, to the police and/or the relevant child protection agency. You may need to make a report to both.
- Contact the relevant child protection agency or police for advice if there is **any** doubt about whether the allegation should be reported.
- If the allegation involves a person to whom this policy applies, then also report the allegation to the President of BSRV so that he or she can manage the situation.

### Step 3: Protect the child and manage the situation

- The President will assess the immediate risks to the child and take interim steps to ensure the child's safety and the safety of any other children. This may include redeploying the alleged offender to a position where there is no unsupervised contact with children, supervising the alleged offender or removing/suspending him or her until any investigations

have been concluded. Legal advice should be sought before any interim steps are made if the person is an employee of BSRV.

- The President will consider what services may be most appropriate to support the child and his or her parent/s.
- The President will consider what support services may be appropriate for the alleged offender.
- The President will seek to put in place measures to protect the child and the alleged offender from possible victimisation and gossip.

#### **Step 4: Take internal action**

- At least three different investigations could be undertaken to examine allegations that are made against a person to whom this policy applies, including:
  - a criminal investigation (conducted by the police)
  - a child protection investigation (conducted by the relevant child protection agency)
  - a disciplinary or misconduct inquiry/investigation (conducted by BSRV)
- BSRV will assess the allegations and determine what action should be taken in the circumstances. Depending on the situation, action may include considering whether the alleged offender should return to his or her position, be dismissed, banned or suspended or face other disciplinary action.
- If disciplinary action is undertaken, we will follow the procedures set out in Clause 10.3 of our Member Protection Policy.
- Where required we will provide the relevant government agency with a report of any disciplinary action we take.

## Contact details for advice or to report an allegation of child abuse

<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	
ACT Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 <a href="http://www.afp.gov.au">www.afp.gov.au</a>	Office for Children, Youth and Family Services <a href="http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect">http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect</a> Ph: 1300 556 729
<b>New South Wales</b>	
New South Wales Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 <a href="http://www.police.nsw.gov.au">www.police.nsw.gov.au</a>	Department of Family and Community Services <a href="http://www.community.nsw.gov.au">www.community.nsw.gov.au</a> Ph: 132 111
<b>Northern Territory</b>	
Northern Territory Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 <a href="http://www.pfes.nt.gov.au">www.pfes.nt.gov.au</a>	Department of Children and Families <a href="http://www.childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au">www.childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au</a> Ph: 1800 700 250
<b>Queensland</b>	
Queensland Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 <a href="http://www.police.qld.gov.au">www.police.qld.gov.au</a>	Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services <a href="http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety">www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety</a> Ph: 1800 811 810
<b>South Australia</b>	
South Australia Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 <a href="http://www.sapolice.sa.gov.au">www.sapolice.sa.gov.au</a>	Department for Education and Child Development <a href="http://www.families.sa.gov.au/childsafes">www.families.sa.gov.au/childsafes</a> Ph: 131 478
<b>Tasmania</b>	
Tasmania Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 <a href="http://www.police.tas.gov.au">www.police.tas.gov.au</a>	Department of Health and Human Services <a href="http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children">www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children</a> Ph: 1300 737 639
<b>Victoria</b>	
Victoria Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: (03) 9247 6666 <a href="http://www.police.vic.gov.au">www.police.vic.gov.au</a>	Department of Human Services <a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au">www.dhs.vic.gov.au</a> Ph: 131 278
<b>Western Australia</b>	
Western Australia Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 <a href="http://www.police.wa.gov.au">www.police.wa.gov.au</a>	Department for Child Protection and Family Support <a href="http://www.dcp.wa.gov.au">www.dcp.wa.gov.au</a> Ph: (08) 9222 2555 or 1800 622 258



## CONFIDENTIAL RECORD OF CHILD ABUSE ALLEGATION

Before completing, ensure the procedures outlined in *Procedure for Handling Allegations of Child Abuse* have been followed and advice has been sought from the relevant government agency and/or police.

Complainant's Name (if other than the child)		Date Formal Complaint Received:    /    /
Role/status in sport		
Child's name		Age:
Child's address		
Person's reason for suspecting abuse (e.g. observation, injury, disclosure)		
Name of person complained about		
Role/status in sport	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Official	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Other .....
Witnesses (if more than 3 witnesses, attach details to this form)	Name (1): Contact details: Name (2): Contact details: Name (3): Contact details:	
Interim action (if any) taken (to ensure child's safety and/or to support needs of person complained about)		
Police contacted	Who: When: Advice provided:	

Government agency contacted	Who: When: Advice provided:
President and/or MPIO contacted	Who: When:
Police and/or government agency investigation	Finding:
Internal investigation (if any)	Finding:
Action taken	
Completed by	Name: Position: Signature: / /
Signed by	Complainant (if not a child)

This record and any notes must be kept in a confidential and safe place and provided to the relevant authorities (police and government) should they require them.