

CHILD SAFE PHYSICAL CONTACT GUIDELINES

The following practical strategies have been developed by M A Olympic Football Club (MAOFC) to assist the club in developing a child safe environment.

Transport

- Ensuring that pick-up is from a specified location that can be utilised in all weather conditions, preferably in view of the public
- If an adult is remaining to ensure all children are collected, to do so at the specified location in public view
- Inform parents on a regular basis as to the collection of their children – when, where and what to do if they are delayed

Social events

- Develop expectations around attendance and behaviour at the club's social events (i.e. trivia nights, awards functions, weekly dinners)
- Request that adults (i.e. coaches, officials, team managers) only participate in club organised events (where practical) and refrain from socialising with the child participants in any capacity outside of events sanctioned by the club
- Where possible and reasonable, discourage personnel (i.e. volunteers, coaches, officials) from attending the home of children and their families for non-club related social gatherings
- Try to avoid:
 - Being alone with a child outside club sport environments
 - Children attending the private homes of any personnel from the club alone

Overnight or away trips

- Appropriate levels of supervision are adhered to at all times (i.e. ratio of children per adult)
- The gender mix of supervising adults is appropriate for the children participating
- If staying overnight, practical options are explored
- At least one of the supervising adults should have a current first aid qualification

Discipline

- Engage children in the development of codes of conduct or session expectations
- Adopt positive methods for managing challenging behaviour such as directing other children to move away from the situation and/or talking one on one to the child concerned
- Do not:
 - Physically restrain a child for poor behaviour i.e. by grabbing them by the arm
 - Respond to poor behaviour from a child with poor or aggressive language

First Aid

- Ensuring that the first-aid kit includes a blanket, sheet or similar to provide draping if required
- Only exposing the injured part of a child's body (i.e. only remove a shoe and sock for an ankle injury) and using draping if needed
- Utilising a first-aid room which is not isolated and is easily accessible (i.e. open door, visual access into the room via windows)

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Supporting Children with a Disability

- Most children with a disability will have a 'plan' for managing toileting and other personal care needs. It is not likely that this assistance will be required from club personnel however, should the situation arise it is important to manage this with consideration to the child's dignity and safety for the child and club personnel. An individual plan should be discussed with the parents of the child and documented.
- Try to avoid:
 - Offering to assist with toileting or other personal care needs when there is a carer or parent present or where the assistance is not necessary
 - Over assisting and touching when providing assistance