

Member Protection Policy

Scope

This policy is an approved policy of the South Australian Little Athletics Association INC. Affiliated members of the association are required to adhere to this policy and are encouraged to adopt this at Centre level for the benefit of all members of the association.

Policy Statement

The South Australian Little Athletics Association (SALAA) is strong in its commitment to a coordinated and comprehensive approach to promote the protection of children and adults. In accordance with the South Australian State Government principals for child protection and intervention, SALAA aims to promote a safe environment for all children and adults and to recognise and notify suspected child abuse and neglect.

The South Australian Little Athletics Association is committed to the belief that all children have a right to feel safe at all times.

Code of Conduct for Adults

- Adults in the South Australian Little Athletics Association respect the dignity of themselves and others.
- Adults in the South Australian Little Athletics Association demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility, recognising that at all times their words and actions are an example to both adult and child members of the Association.
- Adults in the Association do not use the Association to promote their own beliefs, behaviour or practices, where these are not compatible with the Association policies.
- Adults in the Association act with consideration and good judgment in all interpersonal relationships.
- Adults in the Association avoid unaccompanied and unobserved activities with child members, wherever possible.
- Adults in the Association, for their own protection, should avoid potentially compromising situations by ensuring, where reasonably possible, that at least two adults are in attendance whilst supervising and /or accompanying child members. It is recognised that in certain circumstances it may be necessary for an adult, whilst acting responsibly and exercising their 'duty of care', to be alone with a child member.
- Adults in the South Australian Little Athletics Association Inc. accept that bullying, physical or verbal abuse, neglect or any other type of abuse is unacceptable conduct by any adult within the Association.

Adult Member Rights

Adult members of the South Australian Little Athletics Association have the right to:

- Ongoing training and information on all aspects of child protection
- Support in the reporting of suspicions of child abuse
- Access to support agencies
- Fair and equitable treatment from the Association

- Be protected from abuse and or harassment by child members
- Be protected from abuse, harassment or unfavourable treatment by other adult members and parents.

Adult Member Responsibilities

Adult members of the South Australian Little Athletics Association are responsible for:

- Working as a team to ensure the safety of child members in their care
- Using appropriate child behaviour management
- Believing and responding to child member's statements concerning alleged abuse
- Ensuring the rights and responsibilities of child members are enforced
- Reporting suspicions of child abuse to the Association Chief Executive Officer or her/his Delegate
- Not abusing child members physically, emotionally or sexually and
- Only disclosing sensitive information to appropriate personnel, on a 'need to know' basis.

Child Members Rights

Child members of the South Australian Little Athletics Association have the right to:

- Be given a positive, enjoyable and safe environment whilst participating in all activities.
- Be listened to
- Be respected
- Be protected from abuse by other child members
- Be referred to appropriate professional help if needed

Child Members Responsibilities

Child members of the South Australian Little Athletics Association are responsible for:

- Showing respect to other child members
- Showing respect to adult members
- Keeping themselves safe
- Accurately reporting inappropriate behaviour or at risk situations for child members

South Australian Little Athletics Association Rights

The South Australian Little Athletics Association has the right to:

- Expect all adult members to comply with its Member Protection Policy.
- Take appropriate action if members contravene its Member Protection Policy.
- Expect that adult members will not abuse child members verbally, physically, emotionally or sexually.
- Take appropriate action in the event of malicious accusations
- Ensure that the Board of Director or Centre Responsible Person views National Police Clearance or other appropriate compliance certificate for each Committee Member and Centre Coach/Coaches which have to be renewed every three years.

South Australian Little Athletics Association Responsibilities:

The South Australian Little Athletics Association is responsible for:

- Identifying risks and recommend treatment to minimise that risk to provide maximum safety to all child members
- Widely promoting the Member Protection Policy which includes child protection measures to members and the wider community,
- Designating an Officer to co-ordinate and oversee all aspects of member protection and Code of Conduct within the Association.
- Encouraging open discussion on child protection issues which encourages the children to speak up about any concerns or issues they may have to a responsible or trusted person.
- Providing support to members who report suspicions of child abuse
- Treating the information of suspected child abuse with confidentiality and disclosing information only to those who need to know
- Using a screening process so as to make every effort to ensure the suitability of members who work with children in our activities
- Ensuring all staff whether paid, voluntary, permanent or casual are aware of the indicators of child abuse and neglect, their obligations to notify suspected child abuse and neglect
- Ensuring all staff whether paid, voluntary, permanent or casual are aware that improper adult conduct which could be classified as sexual harassment or sexual or racial discrimination will not be tolerated and should be reported to the appropriate person.

Contact Management:

If you suspect improper conduct inform the Chief Executive Officer or their appointed MPIO representative of the South Australian Little Athletics Association immediately.

Media Contact Management:

In the event of contact by the media as a result of any incident/activity other than competition/promotion being conducted by a centre, the media is to be referred to the Association Office.

It needs to be clearly understood that if an adult member of the South Australian Little Athletics Association is facing criminal proceedings for inappropriate behaviour and the case has not yet been heard or a judgment made, then opinions of such a person's character or actions should not be generally discussed. If such a person is found to be not guilty by the legal system they could possibly seek damages for defamation.

When there is any doubt whatsoever concerning media contact in any particular situation then do not offer any comment without prior referral to the Association Office.

For further information please refer to the Booklet "Keeping Children Safe in Recreation & Sport" Other information can be found on the website www.playbytherules.net.au & www.ausport.gov.au

Authorisation

<Signature of the Chief Executive Officer> _____

<Date of approval by the Board> _____

For Further information on this document, please contact:

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