



EDJBA Child Safety Policy

Statement of Commitment to Child Protection

- Our association is deeply committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of children.
- The safe participation, rights and empowerment of all children are fundamental values upheld by our association.
- We maintain a zero-tolerance policy towards child abuse, treating all allegations and safety concerns with the utmost seriousness and consistency through our robust policies and procedures and require all our participating clubs to do so.
- We acknowledge both legal and moral obligations to promptly contact authorities in cases where we have information that a child's safety is at risk, a duty we fulfill rigorously.
- While recognising we do not have direct control of participants in the competition, the EDJBA, by its policies, procedures and communications, seek to minimise the risks of any sexual, physical or verbal abuse of any minor participating in the competition.
- Our association adheres to stringent recruitment practices for all staff and education of elected committee members.
- Appropriate education and resources will be given to all staff who might be required to deal with any relevant issues or allegations or counselling of clubs.
- We are unwavering in our commitment to ensuring the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with disabilities.
- The policies and processes presented in this document and the BV guideline attached will be provided to all staff, committee members and any other volunteer.

Policy

Every individual engaging in our association's activities is entitled to a safe and enjoyable environment. It is our obligation at the Eastern District Basketball Association (EDJBA) to provide policies procedures and education that facilitate clubs providing coaches, officials, volunteers, staff, and parents with the highest standard of care when entrusted with the responsibility of young people.

The goal is to promote best practices, that provide children and young people with the necessary safety and protection and empower relevant personnel to address specific child protection issues with confidence and competence.

Child

For the purpose of this policy, the terms "child" and "children" refer to individuals up to the age of 18 years. This definition aligns with national frameworks and legislation pertaining to child protection.

The term "child" encompasses all individuals under the age of 18, emphasizing the inclusive approach of this policy to safeguard children and teenagers alike.



Policy Statement

The EDJBA is unwavering in its commitment to the following principles:

- The welfare of the child in the competition is paramount in all aspects of our operations and we will encourage our participating clubs to follow this principle.
- Every child, irrespective of age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious belief, or sexual identity, has the right to participate in basketball within a safe and enjoyable environment.
- We advocate to our participating clubs all reasonable measures to protect children from harm, discrimination, and degrading treatment. We note that we do not have direct supervisory contact.
- If reported to the EDJBA, all suspicions and allegations of poor practice or abuse will be treated with utmost seriousness and addressed promptly and appropriately.
- All employees of the EDJBA working with children undergo thorough recruitment processes and receive guidance and/or training in good practice and child protection procedures.
- In future development of this policy, we will seek the input of all relevant stakeholders and in particular seek ways for young people to have an input.

Requiring Safe Practice

We will require all participating clubs to agree with the principle of the priority of safety of all children and to agree to the guidelines provided by Basketball Victoria in the attachments to this policy document.

Agreement will be required each season as a condition of entry. The relevant document shall include guidance to clubs and require support for BV Codes of Conduct by all participants and spectators. It will also include a statement of verification by Clubs that coaches, officials, supervisors and other personnel who are likely by their task to have unsupervised individual contact with participants under the age of 18 comply with Basketball Victoria screening requirements. **We recommend all coaches, parents/carers and administrators are given/sent a copy of the BV Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct.**

We will seek by consultation and research the input of young people in the formulation of policies relevant to their welfare.

We promote diversity and inclusivity within our association, welcoming individuals from all backgrounds, and encouraging our clubs to do so. In particular to:

- Foster the cultural safety, participation, and empowerment of Aboriginal children.
- Promote the cultural safety, participation, and empowerment of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Promote that children with disabilities are provided with a safe and inclusive environment for participation, providing appropriate settings in response to relevant realistic requests.

Staff and Committee

All staff and the Committee of the EDJBA and any other relevant volunteers are required to have a current working with children card. They will be informed of the policy in this document and given any appropriate education in participant safety. In any other role in the sporting community or elsewhere staff and committee are required to observe the protocols required in the BV guidelines and to inform the President or Manager if they believe they may have violated any code or are accused of doing so. That



must lead to all legally or ethically required appropriate notifications, investigations and other actions in accordance with due procedures.

Association Child Welfare Officer

After due process an Association Child Welfare Officer will be appointed.

Fair and Just Procedures for Personnel

While prioritising the safety and well-being of children, we also uphold fairness and justice in our dealings with personnel. Decisions related to recruitment, incident assessment, and disciplinary actions are based on thorough investigation and evidence. All allegations and incidents are recorded and managed transparently and in accordance with established procedures.

Privacy

We uphold the privacy of all individuals involved in our association's activities, ensuring that any personal information collected or recorded is managed with care and confidentiality. Everyone has the right to know how their information is used and who has access to it.

Basketball Victoria Guidelines and Policies

This policy is based on the policies and guidelines provided by Basketball Victoria:

<https://www.basketballvictoria.com.au/resources/child-safe-standards>

Regular Review

This policy undergoes regular review every three years and following significant incidents, and following relevant consultation.