



CHILD SAFE POLICY

Written By: Tracy Carey

Approved By: Viv Fadersen, Joe Robinson, Heike Fleckenstein, Geoff Hollow, Leigh Marlow, Mick Crocker, Tracy Carey

Endorsed By: Bright Tennis Club General Meeting 16th October 2017

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Purpose

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of all people involved including members, parents and volunteers of the Bright Tennis Club (the Club) to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and practices the Club has developed to keep everyone safe from any harm, including abuse.

Commitment to Child Safety

All children who are a part of the Club have a right to feel and be safe. The welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority and the Club has a zero tolerance to child abuse. The Club aims to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and have fun and the Club's activities are always carried out in the best interests of the children.

Application of this Policy

This policy applies to all individuals involved in our organisation including, but not limited to:

- Members
- Coaches
- Volunteers
- Participants
- Parents
- Spectators.

All of the people to which this policy applies have a role and responsibility in relation to child protection. They must all:

- understand the indicators and risks of child abuse;
- appropriately act on any concerns raised by children; and
- understand and follow all applicable laws in relation to the protection of children and reporting or management of child safety concerns.

Child Abuse

Child abuse can take a broad range of forms including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse and neglect. People to whom this policy applies need to be aware that child abuse can occur whenever there is actual or potential harm to a child, and these are circumstances that the Club is committed to reducing the risk of occurrence.

Children’s Rights to Safety and Participation

The Club encourages children to express their views about their safety. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all children who use our services to ‘have a say’ about things that are important to them.

We teach children about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns children, or their parents, raise with us.

Valuing Diversity

We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices. To achieve this we:

- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children and their families;
- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and their families;
- welcome children with a disability and their families and act to promote their participation; and

Recruitment

All people engaged in child-related work, including volunteers and all club committee members are required to hold a Working with Children Check and provide evidence of this check.

All coaches & assistants must be Accredited by Tennis Australia and adhere to the Tennis Australia Code of Conduct.

Supporting coaches, coaches assistants and volunteers

The Club seeks to attract and retain the best coaches, coaches assistants and volunteers. We provide support and supervision so people feel valued, respected and fairly treated. We have developed a Code of Conduct to provide guidance to our coaches and volunteers, all of whom receive training on the requirements of the Code.

Reporting a child safety concern or complaint

A child safety concern or complaint can be made to any Bright Tennis Club Committee Member using the Incident Report Form.

Risk Management

We recognise the importance of a risk management approach to minimising the potential for child abuse or harm to occur and use this to inform our policy, procedures and activity planning. In addition to general occupational health and safety risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse to our children. To reduce the risk of child abuse occurring, adults to whom this policy applies should avoid direct, unsupervised contact with children. For example, this should be a consideration when:

- using change room facilities;
- using accommodation or overnight stays;
- travel; or
- physical contact when coaching or managing children.

Reviewing this policy

This policy will be reviewed in one years' time then every two years and we undertake to seek views, comments and suggestions from children, parents, carers, staff and volunteers involved in the Club