



Appendix III: Child Protection Strategies for the provision of a safe and supportive recreation and sport environment

In order for recreation and sport organisations to provide a safe environment for children and minimise the risk of child abuse, organisations need to implement measures that address the Seven Principles outlined. For clubs and associations, these can include:

1. Appoint a club Child Safe Officer or an association Member Protection Information Officer. This person should be the first point of contact if a child, parent or other member of the club or association becomes concerned about an incident.
2. Have the [Child Safe Officer](#) or [Member Protection Information Officer](#) appropriately trained and their details and role well advertised within the club and association. Information on training resources are available on the Office for Recreation and Sport website and [Play by the Rules](#).
3. Adopt or update the [policies and procedures](#) recommended by your national and/or state organisation. If there is not an affiliated peak organisation, the club or association should develop its own policies and procedures. The policy should include a complaints process and [codes of behaviour](#) for all roles within the sport, stating what is acceptable behaviour.
4. Adopt thorough recruitment and selection practices for paid and voluntary positions. These practices should include job descriptions, interviews, checking references and, where appropriate, conducting police checks.
5. Promote the policy and procedures to all members, particularly coaches, and make them easily accessible (for example, put them on your website).
6. Respond to suspicions, allegations and complaints of child abuse. Ensure that all persons within the club and association who are mandated notifiers under the Act are aware of this and know how to respond appropriately. Where there is an incident of suspected child abuse, the Child Safe Officer or Member Protection Information Officer for the club or association should immediately make contact with the relevant authorities to seek advice. Refer to the [principles for dealing with incidents](#) for more information.
7. Ensure there is no harassment and victimisation of the child or the person who made the allegation on behalf of the child.
8. Use accredited coaches and officials and check that their accreditation is current.
9. Provide information to coaches and others working with children about how to recognise child abuse and give them directions on what to do if abuse is reported or suspected.
10. Conduct an education and training program to increase awareness of child abuse. At the very least all coaches and managers of underage teams and or underage participants in your club or organisation should receive a copy of the resource book [‘Keeping Children Safe in Recreation and Sport’](#).

