

Goolwa Aquatic Club Sailing

Child Safe Policy



1. Purpose

This policy documents the commitment of Goolwa Aquatic Club Sailing to child safety and maintaining child safe and child friendly environments.

2. Context

This policy reflects our endeavour to provide a safe environment where every person has the right to be treated with respect and is safe and protected from abuse.

It complies with our obligations under the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017.

It also complies with the Child Safe Environments: Principles of Good Practice adhering to the Club's Working with Children Check obligations

3. Scope

This policy, from the date of endorsement, applies to all volunteers, children, parents, carers and other individuals in Goolwa Aquatic Club Sailing.

4. Commitment to child safety and risk minimization

All children involved in our Programs have a right to feel and be safe.

We are committed to the safety and well being of all children and young people accessing our services. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where all children are valued and feel safe.

We have a child safety officer as a first point of contact to provide advice and support to children, parents, employees and volunteers regarding the safety and well-being of children in our organization.

This policy was developed in consultation with all our volunteers, parents and children who use our services

5. Children's Participation

Goolwa Aquatic Club Sailing encourage children to express their views, and make suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage children who use our services to "have a say" about those things that are important to them. We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices.

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

6. Recruitment Practices

Goolwa Aquatic Club Sailing takes all reasonable steps to ensure it engages the most suitable people to work with children.

We employ a range of screening measures and apply best practice standards in the recruitment of volunteers.

We ensure all our volunteers have current checks in line with requirements of Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017.

7. Code of Conduct

All members are made aware of and must abide by our Code of Conduct.

These documents have been developed over time in collaboration with the members.

8. Support for Volunteers

We seek to attract and retain the best volunteers. We provide support and supervision so people feel valued and respected, and are equipped to carry out their roles effectively.

9. Reporting and responding to suspected child abuse and neglect

All volunteers understand their responsibility to notify the Child Abuse Report Hotline on 13 14 78 as soon as practicable if they have a reasonable suspicion that a child has been harmed, or is at risk of harm by a member of their family.

We ensure that volunteers are aware of how to make appropriate reports of harm. We also provide opportunities for volunteers to attend a session on mandatory reporting.

10. Strategies to minimize risk

Policies and procedures may address (but are not limited to):

- Transportation
- Taking images of children
- Supervision of children
- Child Safety Officer
- Complaints Procedures
- Physical Contact Responsibilities
- Procedures for Breaches of Policy
- Protecting Privacy and Confidentiality
- Procedures for dealing with Situations where a Member is being Investigated for, or is charged with, a Serious Criminal Offence.

11. Harassment and Bullying

Goolwa Aquatic Club Sailing opposes all forms of harassment, discrimination and bullying.

We take this issue seriously and encourage anyone who believes that they, or another person, has been harassed, discriminated against or bullied to raise the issue with the Child Safe Officer or a Member of the Management Committee.

12. Communication

Goolwa Aquatic Club Sailing will ensure that everyone to whom this policy applies is aware of and has had an opportunity to read the policy.

We also ask volunteers and parents to sign a written statement indicating that they have read and will abide by our Child Safe Policy.

Membership Application Forms for Goolwa Aquatic Club Sailing include a signed declaration for members to abide by the Club Constitution, Policies and Behaviour Standards.

We retain a copy of all signed statements and documents.

13. Related Policies and Procedures

The following is a list of related policies and procedures that support this Policy.

- The Constitution of Goolwa Aquatic Club Sailing

- The Code of Conduct for Members and Office Bearers
- The Goolwa Aquatic Club Sailing Club Membership Application Form
- Volunteer Recruitment Procedures, including those relating to conducting Child Related Employment screening
- Mandatory Reporting Procedures
- Risk Management Strategy

14. Supporting Resources

- Goolwa Aquatic Club Sailing Child Safe Policy
- Goolwa Aquatic Club Sailing Member Protection Policy
- Play by the Rules Initiative.....URL=www.playbytherules.net.au
- South Australian Office for Volunteers...URL=www.ofv.sa.gov.au

15. Goolwa Aquatic Club Child Safe Officers

1. Peggy Offler 0457 243 145
2. Rosemary Sage 0408 308 220

Signed:

Peggy Offler
Chairperson, GAC Sailing

Adopted by GAC Sailing committee 10th December 2018

Reviewed by GAC Sailing committee 30 November 2020