

## BALLARAT DISTRICT GOLF INCORPORATED

Child Safe Policy		Approval Date: 6/11/2023	
		Review Date: 11/2024	Annually
President:	Sign:	Name: David Edwards	
Vice-President:	Sign:	Name: Glenis Keilar	

### INTRODUCTION

Ballarat District Golf is committed to ensuring that children and young people who participate in its activities have a safe and happy experience. Ballarat District Golf supports and respects children, young people, Executive Committee members, coaches, officials, volunteers, participants, parents/guardians and spectators.

### PURPOSE

The aim of Ballarat District Golf's Child Safe Policy is to protect the safety of children in our care and prevent abuse from occurring, and if allegations are raised in relation to child abuse, to ensure that the allegations are properly addressed. All complaints will be treated seriously and fully investigated and handled with maximum confidentiality and discretion.

Should a person wish to make any enquiries in relation to this Policy, please contact the Ballarat District Golf, Child Safety Officer, Robert Rosenow [treasurer@bdga.com.au](mailto:treasurer@bdga.com.au).

### POLICY STATEMENT

Ballarat District Golf is committed to providing the highest level of safety for all involved with Golf. This includes protecting members' privacy, promoting positive behaviours and attitudes, protecting the health safety and wellbeing of members, particularly children and delivering Ballarat District Golf's activities while acting in the best interests of children in the sport.

Specifically, Ballarat District Golf considers that the health, safety, and well-being of children take priority over all other competing considerations. Ballarat District Golf considers that this is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all members and protect the image and reputation of the sport, Ballarat District Golf and its members.

Ballarat District Golf has a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is committed to promoting and protecting children from abuse and neglect to the greatest extent possible. All children have equal rights to protection from child abuse, regardless of their gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or sex characteristics etc.

Child protection is a shared responsibility between Ballarat District Golf, its Executive Committee members, coaches, officials, volunteers, participants, parents/guardians and spectators of the Ballarat District Golf community. Everyone that participates in Ballarat District Golf's activities is responsible for the care and protection of children, and reporting information about child abuse.

Ballarat District Golf supports the active participation of all children. It listens to their views, respects their views, and involves them when making decisions, where appropriate, especially about matters that will directly affect them, including their safety.

Ballarat District Golf is also committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, and those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children living with a disability.

Ballarat District Golf promotes fairness and consideration for all Executive Committee members, coaches, officials, volunteers, participants, parents/guardians and spectators.

### SCOPE

This Policy applies to everyone involved in or connected to golf, including (but not limited to) Executive Committee members, coaches, officials, volunteers, participants, parents/guardians and spectators throughout all Ballarat District Golf events and activities.

This Policy will continue to apply retrospectively to a person or member following the cessation of their association with Ballarat District Golf.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS & LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

This Policy must be read in conjunction with:

1. the laws of the Commonwealth and Victoria (as amended from time to time) including but not limited to:
  - Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)
  - Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015 (Vic)
  - Crimes Act 1958 (Vic); and
  - Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic)
2. Ballarat District Golf policies and procedures, including but not limited to:
  - Activities, Events and Programs Policy;
  - Administration and Governance Policy;
  - Code of Conduct;
  - Code of Conduct when Dealing with Children and Young People;
  - Communication and Marketing Policy;
  - Golf Operations Policy;
  - Junior Development Policy; and
  - Representative Teams Policy.

## DEFINITIONS

1. **Child** means a person involved in the activities of Ballarat District Golf (including athletes) and under the age of 18 years unless otherwise stated under the law applicable to the child (eg, for the purposes of child sexual offences in Victoria, a “child” refers to a person under the age of 16 years).
2. **Child Abuse** is the mistreatment of a Child or Young Person that has Harmed, is Harming or is likely to Harm or endanger that Child or Young Person’s physical or emotional health, development or wellbeing and the Child has not, or is not likely to be protected by the parent(s) or guardian(s). For the avoidance of doubt, this includes but is not limited to Emotional or Psychological Abuse, Bullying, Grooming, Sexual Exploitation, Neglect and Harassment.
3. **Child protection** means any responsibility, measure or activity undertaken to safeguard children from Harm.
4. **Grooming** is a term used to describe what happens when a perpetrator of Abuse builds a relationship with a Child with a view to abusing them at some stage. There is no set pattern in relation to the Grooming of Children. For some perpetrators, there will be a lengthy period of time before the Abuse begins. The Child may be given special attention and what starts as an apparently normal display of affection, such as cuddling, can develop into sexual touching or masturbation and then into more serious sexual behaviour. Other perpetrators may draw a Child in and Abuse them relatively quickly. Some abusers do not groom Children but Abuse them without forming a relationship at all. Grooming can take place in any setting where a relationship is formed, such as leisure, music, sports and religious activities, or in internet chatrooms, in social media or by other technological channels.
5. **Harm** means Harm to a person, or a Child is any detrimental effect of a significant nature to the person or Child’s physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing. It is immaterial how the harm is caused. Harm can be caused by:
  - Physical, Psychological or Emotional Abuse or Neglect;
  - Sexual Abuse or Exploitation;
  - a single act, omission, or circumstance; and
  - a series or combination of acts, omissions, or circumstances.

6. **Sexual offence** (in Victoria) means a criminal offence involving sexual activity or actions of indecency or any act which exposes a child under the age of 16 years to or involves a child under the age of 16 years in, sexual activity or matters beyond their understanding or contrary to accepted community standards. Sexually offence behaviours can include the fondling of genitals, masturbation, oral sex, vaginal or anal penetration by a penis, finger or any other object, fondling of breasts, voyeurism, exhibitionism, and exposing the child to or involving the child in pornography. It includes grooming, which includes actions deliberately undertaken with the aim of befriending and establishing an emotional connection with a child under the age of 16 years (or their carer, family or supervisor) to lower their inhibitions and prepare them for engagement in a sexual offence.
7. **Mandatory reporter** means a person who is legally required to make a report to the Department of Health and Human Services or the Police if they form a belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection. It includes (but is not limited to) teachers, principals, registered psychologists, nurses, doctors and midwives.

## RECOGNISING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

A person may, while participating in the sport or other activities of Ballarat District Golf or carrying out their work, form a belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection from child abuse.

If a person is concerned about an immediate risk to a child's safety, the person must phone Victoria Police on "000" as soon as practicable.

Specific types of child abuse include:

1. **Physical abuse**: occurs when a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant Harm because of a physical injury, such as a non-accidental physical injury.
2. **Sexual abuse**: occurs when a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant Harm as a result of sexual abuse, such as when a child is exploited, or used by another for their sexual gratification or sexual arousal, or for that of others.
3. **Emotional and psychological abuse**: occurs when a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, emotional or psychological Harm of such a kind that the child's emotional or intellectual development is or is likely to be significantly damaged; and
4. **Neglect**: occurs when a child's physical development or health has been or is likely to be significantly damaged. It refers to an omission, such as depriving a child of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, intellectual stimulation, supervision and safety, attachment to and affection from adults, or medical care.

### Mandatory Reporters

Select classes of people in the community (including teachers, nurses and doctors – amongst others) are required by law to report to the Child Protection Unit of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Victoria (DFFH) where they have formed a belief, on reasonable grounds, that a child is in need of protection because they have suffered (or are likely to suffer) significant harm due to physical or sexual abuse.

This report must be made as soon as practicable, and after each occasion where they become aware of a further reasonable grounds for the belief.

### Reasonable grounds for belief

A reasonable belief is formed if a reasonable person believes that:

1. the child is in need of protection;
2. the child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm because of physical or sexual injury; and
3. the child's parents are unable or unwilling to protect the child.

To form a reasonable belief, you should consider and objectively assess all the relevant facts, such as the source of the allegation and how it was communicated, the nature of and details of the allegation, and whether there are any other related matters known regarding the alleged perpetrator.

A 'reasonable belief' or a 'belief on reasonable grounds' is not the same as having proof but is more than mere rumour or speculation.

You will have reasonable grounds to notify if:

- a child state that they have been physically or sexually abused;
- a child states that they know someone who has been physically or sexually abused (sometimes the child may be talking about themselves);
- someone who knows a child states that the child has been physically or sexually abused;
- professional observations of the child's behaviour or development leads a professional to form a belief that the child has been physically or sexually abused or is likely to be abused; or
- signs of abuse lead to a belief that the child has been physically or sexually abused.

### Voluntary Reporters

In addition to the mandatory reporting obligations above, any person who believes on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection from any form of child abuse, may disclose that information to the Police, DFFH or the Commission for Children & Young People (CCYP).

### Reporting Child Sexual Abuse

If a person receives information that leads them to form a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed in Victoria against a child (under the age of 16 years) by another person (of or over the age of 18 years), the person has a legal obligation to disclose that information to the Police as soon as it is practicable. Individuals who fail to comply with this obligation under the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic) may be subject to a penalty of imprisonment.

### Ballarat District Golf's Approach to Reports of Abuse

- Ballarat District Golf supports and encourages a person to make a report to the Police, CCYP or DFFH if they form a belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection, or they are concerned about the safety, health or wellbeing of a child.
- Any person that makes a report in good faith in accordance with their reporting obligations (whether mandatory or voluntary) will be supported by Ballarat District Golf and will not be penalised by Ballarat District Golf for making the report.
- If a person is uncertain as to whether they should make a report to an external authority in relation to the safety of a child, they may speak to the Ballarat District Golf Child Safety Officer or President for guidance and information. If in doubt, ask for assistance.
- If an allegation is made against an Executive Committee member, coach, official, volunteer, participant, parent/guardian or spectator, Ballarat District Golf will follow the reporting procedure outlined by Ballarat District Golf and take all steps to ensure that the safety of the child and other children is paramount.
- Ballarat District Golf will investigate allegations of inappropriate conduct against a child in accordance with procedural fairness and will handle the allegations in a confidential and sensitive manner to the greatest extent possible.
- Ballarat District Golf will cooperate with the directions of the Police, CCYP and/or DFFH in relation to any investigation conducted by these authorities.
- Ballarat District Golf will keep a register of any allegations regarding inappropriate conduct.

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PERSONNEL PROTECTING CHILDREN

Personnel involved in protecting children include the Executive Committee members, coaches, officials and volunteers within Ballarat District Golf. Those people have responsibilities in relation to protection of children

and are expected to:

- understand the rights of children, as appropriate to their role;
- respect the cultural and religious practices of families who access Moyston Willaura Football Netball Club's services, programs or events;
- understand and appropriately respond to the needs of children with developmental delays or disabilities;
- appropriately act on any concerns raised by children;
- understand the definitions, indicators and impact of child abuse;
- at all times, know and follow regulations in relation to the care of children and follow the Code of Conduct for dealing with Children and Young People.
- co-operate with police and/or other formal investigations to the best of their ability; and
- not harm or exploit children who access Ballarat District Golf's services.

Ballarat District Golf will appoint a Child Safety Officer or equivalent role that will be the primary point of contact for all concerns related to child safety.

## RECRUITMENT AND SCREENING

The minimum standard for background checks of Executive Committee members, coaches and officials of Ballarat District Golf and its members is the law as it applies in Victoria.

Ballarat District Golf undertakes a comprehensive recruitment and screening process for all Executive Committee members, coaches and officials which aims to:

- promote and protect the safety of all children who participate in the activities of Ballarat District Golf;
- identify and recruit the safest and most suitable candidates who share Ballarat District Golf's values and commitment to protect children; and
- prevent a person from working at Ballarat District Golf if they pose an unacceptable risk to children.

Ballarat District Golf requires Executive Committee members, coaches and officials to pass the recruitment and screening process prior to commencing their engagement with Ballarat District Golf.

As part of the screening and recruitment process, an applicant must provide appropriate evidence (e.g., WWCC or other state equivalent and/or Police check) to show that they are suitable to work with children and young people in a recreational setting. Ballarat District Golf requires that:

- all Executive Committee members of Ballarat District Golf require a WWCC; and
- the following key event personnel must have a valid WWCC:
  1. those paid by Ballarat District Golf for their services
  2. volunteers with regular roles at Ballarat District Golf; and
  3. anyone else who Ballarat District Golf staff feel requires a WWCC due to the nature of the work that they are undertaking for Ballarat District Golf.

The type of evidence that an applicant is required to provide to Ballarat District Golf will vary depending on the type of position that they are applying for. However, an applicant will not be offered a position until they provide the required evidence to Ballarat District Golf.

Ballarat District Golf will exercise discretion and may require applicants to provide a Police check in accordance with the law and as appropriate before they commence their engagement and during their time with Ballarat District Golf in regular intervals.

Ballarat District Golf will undertake at least two thorough reference checks prior to engaging any personnel.

Once engaged, Ballarat District Golf will provide Executive Committee members, coaches and officials with access to this policy and Executive Committee members, coaches and officials must review and acknowledge their understanding of this policy.

Ballarat District Golf requires that all Executive Committee members, coaches and officials, likely to have contact with athletes (and other children) have a current WWCC, which needs to be signed off annually.

## SUPPORTING PERSONNEL

Ballarat District Golf is committed to ensuring that all Executive Committee members, coaches and officials receive training to ensure that they understand their responsibilities in relation to child safety. Mandatory training at Ballarat District Golf includes a Child Safe Induction.

Ballarat District Golf, its Executive Committee members, coaches and officials will incorporate child safety considerations into decision-making and promote a culturally safe environment where children are supported to speak up about issues that affect them.

## RISK MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Child safety is a part of Ballarat District Golf's overall risk management approach.

See CCYP Guide for Creating a Child Safe Organisation.

## POLICY BREACHES

It is a breach of this policy for any person or organisation to which this policy applies, to have been found to have done anything contrary to this policy. Any person who may breach this policy is subject to action in accordance with the Administration & Governance Policy.

## POLICY PROMOTION

This policy will be made available to Executive Committee members, coaches, officials, volunteers, participants, parents/guardians and spectators via the Ballarat District Golf website. This policy will be communicated to all Executive Committee members, coaches and officials via a Junior Development Program Induction.

References to this policy will be included in documentation provided to all coaches and officials that represent Ballarat District Golf.

## RECORD KEEPING

Ballarat District Golf will retain records of reports of child abuse and complaints about child safety.

In maintaining records of reports about child safety, Ballarat District Golf will maintain confidentiality and privacy for children and families in accordance with legislation.

Ballarat District Golf will appropriately note identified risks to child safety through the record keeping process and will incorporate those into its risk management plan.

## REVIEW PROCESS

This policy will be reviewed by the Ballarat District Golf Board on an annual basis.

If you would like to provide Ballarat District Golf with any feedback or suggestions to improve this policy, please contact Ballarat District Golf, Child Safety Officer, Robert Rosenow [treasurer@bdga.com.au](mailto:treasurer@bdga.com.au).

In addition to the regular review of this policy, recommendations for changes to the policy may be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration at any time. If changes are accepted, the policy will be updated, and circulated to all stakeholders via the webpage.