



Western Suburbs Football Club

Child Protection Policy

The Board of Western Suburbs Football want children and young people who participate in football to have a safe and happy experience.

We support and respect our children, young people, coaches, managers, parents and supporters.

Our policy guides our volunteers on how to behave with children and young persons in our club.

The policy focuses on how we promote children's participation in our club and how we make it safer for them. Western Suburbs Football Club supports the active participation of children and young persons in our club. We listen to their views, respect what they say, and involve them in making decisions especially about matters that will directly affect them.

Players, Coaches, Managers, Parents and Supporters

- We promote respect, fairness, and consideration for all players, coaches, managers, parents and supporters.
- All persons involved with the club will have access to a copy of Western Suburbs "Child Protection Policy" and to the Dealing with Complaints process via our website
- Good practices for coaches/managers;
 - o Always working in an open environment avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication
 - o Treating all players with respect and dignity
 - o Always putting the welfare of each child first
 - o Maintaining a safe and appropriate distance with children
 - o Building balanced relationships based on mutual trust
 - o Making sport fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play
 - o Involving parents wherever possible
 - o Giving enthusiastic and constructive feedback
 - o Keeping a written record of any injury that occurs, along with the details of any treatment given.
- Good practices when travelling with teams;
 - o As above for coaches/managers

o Ensuring that at events, adults (other than the children's parents) should not enter children's rooms or invite children into their rooms

o Ensure there is adequate adult supervision (on and off the playing fields).

Dealing with Complaints

- We understand that occasionally matters arise in football that give rise to concern and complaint.
- The first point of contact for any complaint is the coach and/or manager of your team.
- The next point of contact (or the first point if it is not appropriate to involve the coach and/or manager) is your Western Suburbs Football Club grade convener.
- Your grade convener will then deal with the complaint in conjunction with Western Suburbs Chairman, or other Board member.
- If necessary, the complaint will be referred to Capital Football or NZ Police.

Communication

- We hold regular information sessions for players, coaches and managers. Club information is regularly distributed to coaches and managers from Western Suburbs Football Club Chairman and grade conveners for the benefit of players and their parents and supporters.
- Western Suburbs policy will be discussed at club registration days and induction days for coaches and managers. Players, coaches, managers and parents and supporters will have access to our policy on our club website.

Ratified at the Board meeting of Western Suburbs Football Club 17 September 2018.