

KEY ACTION AREA 1.2:

A child safe culture is championed and modelled at all levels of the SSA, from the top down and the bottom up.

OVERVIEW

Building a child safe culture within your SSA is critical to enable children and young people to feel and be safe.

It is important to recognise that developing a child safe culture takes time, resources and investment – a long-term process.

Leaders within your SSA need to role model child safe attitudes and behaviours, however they can only do this effectively if they are informed about what is expected and required of them (See [Fact Sheet 1.4](#) and [National Principle 7 documents](#)).

Most people within the WA sports industry are involved in roles that have contact with children and young people **because they have good intentions and want to make a difference**.

Leaders need to enable a culture where feedback and questions from adults, children and young people are encouraged, and staff and volunteers are encouraged to seek further advice and guidance about matters from inside the SSA (for example a manager, volunteer coordinator or a Board member) or outside (for example the WA Police or Department of Communities), depending on the situation.

It is essential that SSA staff and volunteers understand they **do not need to be a child safety expert, but they do need to know who to contact and refer matters to** if they are concerned a child is at risk (See [Template 6.4](#)).

Child safety messages need to be genuine, communicated through the whole organisation (for example: on your SSA website; in your newsletters; referenced in speeches at events etc) and shared on a regular basis.

Child safety needs to be a regular agenda item for all SSA meetings, including: management and operational meetings; meetings with clubs; meetings with officials/coaches and high-performance athletes; and meetings with volunteers.

In order to continuously improve your SSA's approach to child safety, it is important to monitor whether policies and procedures are working in practice and identify how they can be improved. It is important to identify what information needs to be collated to inform this review process and from whom (for example: from children and young people; coaches; parents; staff; officials; volunteers; and clubs).



EXAMPLE SSA ACTIONS TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING KEY ACTION AREA 1.2	Leaders within the SSA demonstrate and reinforce attitudes and behaviours that value child safety.
	Leaders within the SSA provide opportunities and encouragement for staff and volunteers to ask child safety-related questions and to seek further advice and guidance.
	Child safety messages are included in newsletters and speeches.
	Child safety is a regular agenda item in SSA Board and operational meetings.
	The SSA monitors the use of child safety policies and processes in practice.

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If you need support:

> [Mental health community links](#)

> [Reporting flowchart](#)

