

KEY ACTION AREA 1.5:

Risk management strategies focus on preventing, identifying and mitigating risks to children and young people.

OVERVIEW

It is important to have risk management strategies that focus on identifying and mitigating risks to children and young people.

Proactive risk management planning means identifying risks and enables your SSA to work to create a safe environment for children and young people and minimise the risk of child safety incidents occurring.

As a starting point, your SSA needs to identify:

- All **situations and behaviours** within your SSA where children and young people may be at risk of harm as part of your existing **culture**
- All SSA **operations** and activities where children and young people are involved and there is a risk of harm
- All child safe **practice** risks.

Once the child safe risks are identified, your SSA can then identify steps that can be taken to minimise these risks. For example, if 'state team training' is identified as an activity where there are possible risks for children and young people; the following example risk mitigation steps may be identified:

- That a coach or other staff or volunteers are never alone with a child. If a coach or other staff or volunteers does need to talk one-on-one with a child or young person, they do this in view of others
- That all coaches or other staff or volunteers are informed about their behavioural expectations around children and young people, and they are given a copy of, and agree to adhere to, the [Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)
- That a recruitment and screening process is followed for all staff and volunteers involved in this activity
- That all children and young people are informed about the steps the SSA has taken to create a safe environment for them, including who they can talk with if they are concerned about anything
- Developing and implementing a clear 'athlete pick-up' policy. This may include: parents and carers needing to inform your SSA about who is allowed to pick up their child or young person; having a process in place for a coach to follow if a child or young person is not collected at the end of training and the parent or carer cannot be contacted
- Coaches and other staff or volunteers need to adopt a **two-deep model of communication** – copying in your SSA and a parent or guardian in all electronic or online communication to children and young people.



Risk management strategies are also important when your SSA needs to manage a child safety incident. Risk management strategies are essential for effective resolution and need to be aligned with your policies and procedures.

It is essential that all child safety and wellbeing risk management strategies are aligned with your overall SSA risk management processes, plan and/or strategy to ensure they are embedded as part of your SSA's core business and are not in place to simply 'tick a box'.

Staff and volunteers need to be informed and trained about your risk management strategies.

It is important to remember that, although the above process can feel overwhelming, **by starting this process you are taking a positive step towards creating a child safe culture in your sport**. Not only is this the right thing to do; it will also enable children and young people to enjoy safer experiences within your sport; it will increase the confidence of current members and future members about your SSA; and may increase membership and participation. Also, you are making a proactive effort to prevent child safeguarding matters from occurring and providing yourself with a framework to follow if an issue does occur.

There are five phases to managing child safety risks in your SSA:

- 1 Phase one – identify risks in SSA culture, operations, and practice
- 2 Phase two – identify child safety risks within each aspect: culture, operations and practice
- 3 Phase three – identify steps to mitigate each identified risk
- 4 Phase four – implement the risk mitigation plan, including informing everyone involved in the SSA about it
- 5 Phase five – continuous improvement and review of this risk mitigation plan.



EXAMPLE SSA ACTIONS TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING KEY ACTION AREA 1.5	The SSA undertakes a process to identify risks of harm to children and young people who participate in it's sport.
	Risk management strategies are identified and then written into SSA planning and/or framework documents.
	Risk management strategies are built into the planning of all activities to minimise the risk of harm to children and young people.
	The SSA informs staff and volunteers about it's risk management strategies.

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If you need support:

> [Mental health community links](#)

> [Reporting flowchart](#)

