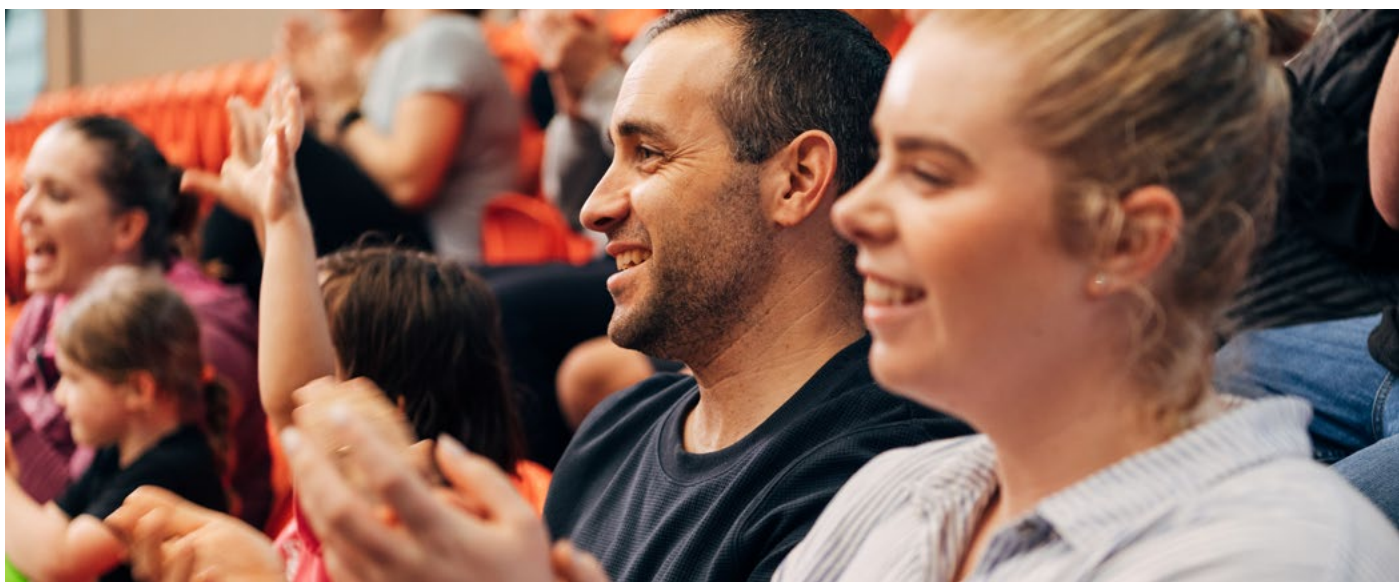




NATIONAL PRINCIPLE 2

Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously





CONTENTS

- > [Fact Sheet 2.1](#)
- > [Fact Sheet 2.2](#)
- > [Fact Sheet 2.3](#)
- > [Fact Sheet 2.4](#)

[Click here](#) to view other True Sport Child Safeguarding resources.

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- > [Mental health community links](#)
- > [Reporting flowchart](#)

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Child Safeguarding

Child Safeguarding relates to the actions taken by organisations to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in it's care, to protect them from harm.

Children and young people

Those involved in your SSA who are under the age of 18 or fit into a youth category.

National Principles

The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (National Principles) reflect the ten child safe standards (standards) recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and were endorsed by all Commonwealth, state and territory governments. The National Principles are the vehicle for giving effect to recommendations relating to the standards. The National Principles aim to provide a nationally consistent approach

to creating organisational cultures that foster safety and wellbeing.

SSA

State Sport Association.

Staff and volunteers

All people undertaking paid or unpaid work within your SSA.

True Sport

True Sport provides a framework for a long-term sustainable approach to safeguarding, support and equip the sports industry from now and into the future. Its all about creating the environment for sport in WA that allows the industry to thrive and prosper for generations to come.

Two-deep model

Adults involved in an SSA should 'copy in' a designated member of the organisation and a parent or carer when undertaking online communication with a child or young person.

Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously

NATIONAL PRINCIPLE 2



KEY ACTION AREA 2.1:

Children and young people are informed about all of their rights, including to safety, information and participation.

OVERVIEW

It is important for children and young people to be informed about all their rights within your SSA.

If your SSA encourages and enables a culture of transparency and informed decision making, it will increase the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. For example, if children and young people are informed about your SSA's expectations for what is appropriate behaviour and what is not, they are more likely to speak up if they witness or experience others demonstrating inappropriate behaviour.

There are many ways your SSA can inform children and young people about their rights, including by having them participate in the design and development of child-friendly versions of your child safety and wellbeing policies and procedures. This process itself will assist in informing children and young people about SSA rules and expectations. These resources should also be regularly promoted to keep children and young people informed.

It is vital to seek the opinion of children and young people for a range of reasons including:

- The views and suggestions of children and young people can genuinely add significant value to how your SSA operates and continuously improves. Your SSA can be innovative about how to regularly seek feedback from children and young people (for example through activities, discussions, surveys etc), as well as identifying what questions to ask children and young people to assist continual improvement. For example, asking children and young people the following questions:
 - > what do they like about your sport?
 - > what could be improved?
 - > what don't they like?
- By creating opportunities for children and young people to provide their suggestions and feedback about your SSA, you are working towards creating a positive culture where children and young people feel comfortable to 'speak up' about how they are feeling. If children and young people feel confident and supported to share their thoughts on day-to-day matters – such as strategies or tactics for a match or game – they are more likely to feel comfortable to speak up if they have a sensitive child safety concern.



EXAMPLE SSA ACTIONS TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING KEY ACTION AREA 2.1	<p>SSA staff and volunteers talk to children and young people about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• their right to feel safe• the steps the SSA takes to help keep them safe• the rules of the SSA• who to talk to and how to speak up if something is worrying them• what to do if someone they know is being hurt or is at risk of harm.
	<p>Seek the views of children and young people through discussions, activities and surveys on how things could be better, what they like/don't like and what makes them feel safe/unsafe when participating in the sport.</p>
	<p>Seek ideas and views of children and young people to contribute to the design/development of child-friendly versions of policies and procedures.</p>

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KEY ACTION AREA 2.2:

The importance of friendships is recognised and support from peers is encouraged, to help children and young people feel safe and be less isolated.

OVERVIEW

One of the benefits of being involved in sport is the often life-long friendships that are built. It is important that all children and young people involved in your SSA, regardless of their background, have this same opportunity.

To assist in enabling all children and young people to feel safe and included within your activities, it is important to collect relevant demographic information about them (such as but not limited to, cultural diversity, neurodiversity and accessibility needs). This includes children and young people involved in your sport in any way, whether as a participant, coach, official or volunteer. This information will help you to create an inclusive environment and support them to build relationships they need. You can do this in various ways, including through:

- registration forms
- interview and selection processes
- induction processes
- icebreaker activities
- buddy systems
- having open and regular communication with children and young people and their families (noting the importance of ensuring all communication is appropriate and child safe. For example, if online communication is required, a [two-deep model](#) is implemented at all times).

If volunteers or employees within your SSA feel that they need additional support to enable a child or young person to be involved (such as through an individualised support plan), it is important that the SSA seeks external advice and guidance from agencies or organisations. **Your SSA is not expected to be an expert** or have sufficient resources to have individualised support programs, but it is important to do as much as you can to fully include all children and young people. This can mean seeking support and guidance from families and carers of children and young people, as well as external organisations.



EXAMPLE SSA ACTIONS TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING KEY ACTION AREA 2.2	When a child becomes a member of the SSA, information about their needs are collected and they are supported to build relationships.
	The SSA facilitates connections between children and young people.
	If a child or young person requires an individual support plan, the SSA seeks guidance, advice and support from a relevant agency or agencies to firstly develop such a plan and to support the implementation of the plan.

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KEY ACTION AREA 2.3:

Where relevant to the setting or context, children may be offered access to sexual abuse prevention programs and relevant related information in an age-appropriate way.

OVERVIEW

It is important for your SSA to create and maintain a safe environment for children and young people and do everything that is reasonable to keep children and young people safe. There are many aspects of this outlined within the [True Sport Child Safeguarding resources](#), which outline the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

It is important to remember the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations were designed to encourage consistency across all organisations where children and young people are involved and certain principles may be more or less relevant to different organisations. Therefore, some of the key action areas, such as this one (2.3), may seem confusing and/or overwhelming for sport organisations.

However it is important to remember that you are **not required to become an expert** in specialised child safeguarding areas, such as sexual abuse prevention programs. However, it is hoped that your SSA volunteers and staff will seek guidance and advice, and refer families to external agencies or organisations, if they feel a child or young person requires additional support or guidance.

For example, if a volunteer or staff member at your SSA is concerned a child or young person may require access to sexual abuse prevention programs (for example a protective behaviours education program), they need to seek advice about where to refer a child or young person, and how they do this (noting the considerations and complexities around this in relation to referring a child or young person onto an agency or organisations).

Below, are steps your SSA may consider:

- If your SSA is concerned that an individual, child or young person may require access to sexual abuse prevention programs, seek advice about relevant suggestions of relevant resources or agencies to share or link with the child or young person's family.

- If your SSA staff or volunteers are concerned that a group of children and young people require access to a sexual abuse prevention program (for example, following a child safety incident or disclosure at your SSA), and with the support of parents and carers, organise an education session.
- It is important your SSA develops child-friendly versions of its rules and codes of conduct and these are shared with children and young people, so everyone is clear about what is appropriate and what is not. In addition, child-friendly information about complaint processes needs to be developed and shared. [Online safety](#) information also needs to be shared with children and young people.



EXAMPLE SSA ACTIONS TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING KEY ACTION AREA 2.3	<p>If a person within the SSA is concerned that a child or young person may require access to sexual abuse prevention programs (eg protective behaviours education), the SSA proactively refers the child or young person onto a relevant agency to be supported.</p>
	<p>Child-friendly versions of SSA rules and codes of conduct are shared widely and promoted with all staff, volunteers and children and young people.</p>
	<p>Child-friendly information about complaint processes is developed and shared.</p>
	<p>Online safety information is shared with children and young people.</p>

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KEY ACTION AREA 2.4:

Staff and volunteers are attuned to signs of harm and facilitate child-friendly ways for children to express their views, participate in decision-making and raise their concerns.

OVERVIEW

It is extremely important for all SSA staff and volunteers to be aware of what the 'signs of harm' are. If they are ever concerned or have a 'gut feel' that something isn't quite right, they must understand the need to raise these concerns with the relevant person or people at your SSA.

Your SSA staff and volunteers **do not need to be experts** but they need access to relevant information (including escalation points), to enable them to keep children and young people as safe as possible, and know how to raise concerns if they suspect a child or young person is being, or has been, harmed. See [Template 6.4](#) and the Department of Communities [Recognising Child Abuse](#) resource for further information.

At the same time, children and young people need to be informed in child-friendly ways that are developmentally appropriate, that they are encouraged to express their concerns, share their views and have a say in decisions that impact them. This can be done informally through discussions, online through a [two-deep model of communication](#), and via other innovative methods that are identified through discussions and input from children and young people involved in your SSA.

Regular appropriate communication between adults and children and young people such as 'check ins' can encourage general feedback about day-to-day activities and build the confidence of children and young people to speak up if they have concerns that they are at risk of harm or have been harmed.



<p>EXAMPLE SSA ACTIONS TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING KEY ACTION AREA 2.4</p>	<p>SSA staff and volunteers are informed about signs of harm for children and young people.</p>
	<p>SSA staff and volunteers know where to go for more information and support if they are unsure about the signs of harm for children and young people.</p>
	<p>SSAs enable and facilitate child-friendly ways for children and young people to express their views, participate in decision making and raise any concerns they may have.</p>
	<p>SSA staff and volunteers who work with children understand the developmental needs of children and young people.</p>
	<p>The SSA, alongside children and young people, identifies barriers to implementing key action area 1.4 and develops approaches to address these.</p>
	<p>The SSA responds to the specific needs of different groups of children and young people – whether this be directly or through the assistance and support of an external organisation(s).</p>
	<p>The SSA encourages staff and volunteers to proactively ‘check-in’ with children and young people.</p>

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