



Child Safe Code of Conduct

South United Football Club is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for children and young people who participate in our activities. We uphold the highest standards of care and responsibility in everything we do, guided by the principles outlined by the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian. This Child Safe Code of Conduct is designed to protect children and young people, while providing clarity to all members, volunteers, coaches, and staff about their role in safeguarding children.

1. Respect for Children and Young People

- Treat all children and young people with respect, fairness, and dignity.
- Value diversity and be aware of cultural sensitivities.
- Always communicate in a manner that is appropriate, positive, and non-discriminatory.

2. Safe Environment

- Ensure all activities, whether on or off the field, are conducted in a safe environment that minimizes risk to children and young people.
- Ensure all facilities used by the club meet safety standards and have appropriate signage, lighting, and equipment.

3. Boundaries and Appropriate Conduct

- Maintain professional and appropriate relationships with children and young people at all times.
- Physical contact should only occur when necessary and in an appropriate context (e.g., teaching a skill in training).
- Avoid situations where children or young people are alone with adults in private spaces without the knowledge or consent of parents/guardians or other responsible adults.

4. Child Protection and Reporting

- Take immediate action if you suspect a child or young person is at risk of harm, including notifying relevant authorities, the club's child protection officer, or other responsible adults.
- Ensure confidentiality is respected when handling any child protection concerns, but always act in the best interest of the child.
- Be familiar with the reporting obligations as outlined by the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian.

5. Anti-Bullying and Harassment

- Actively promote and ensure that all children and young people are treated fairly, free from harassment, bullying, and discrimination.
- Never tolerate any form of bullying, harassment, or intimidation, and intervene immediately when it is observed or reported.
- Encourage positive teamwork and foster an inclusive and respectful culture within the club.

6. Appropriate Communication

- Ensure that all communication, whether in person, by phone, online, or via social media, is appropriate, respectful, and aligns with the values of South United Football Club.
- Never use personal social media accounts to communicate with children or young people unless it is part of official club activities and with parental consent.

7. Supervision and Involvement of Parents and Guardians

- Ensure parents/guardians are kept informed about the activities and programs their children are involved in.
- Encourage parental involvement and make sure children are supervised during training, matches, and events.
- Always respect the privacy and confidentiality of children and young people, and only share information on a need-to-know basis.

8. Education and Training

- Ensure that all staff, coaches, volunteers, and committee members receive regular training on child protection and their responsibilities under this Code of Conduct.
- Promote awareness of the importance of safeguarding children within the club and its broader community.

9. Use of Photographs and Videos

- Obtain written parental/guardian consent before using photographs or videos of children and young people for promotional or marketing purposes.
- Ensure that any images used are appropriate and represent children and young people in a positive light.

11. Commitment to Continuous Improvement

- South United Football Club is committed to reviewing and improving this Code of Conduct regularly in consultation with children, parents, and volunteers.
- We will seek feedback from our members on how to better create a child-safe environment and ensure that all policies and practices align with the best interests of children.

By participating in South United Football Club's activities, all members, coaches and volunteers agree to uphold the principles outlined in this Child Safe Code of Conduct. Your cooperation is vital in ensuring that children and young people are protected and have the opportunity to enjoy their sport in a safe, positive, and supportive environment.

For any concerns or to report an incident, please contact our Child Protection Officer.

This Code of Conduct is in line with the guidelines and principles provided by the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian. All members and volunteers must adhere to these practices to foster a child-safe culture at South United Football Club.