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NORTH WEST JUNIOR SOCCER ASSOCIATION MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

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NWJSA Member Protection Policy

Preface

North West Junior Soccer Association (NWJSA) is committed to providing a safe, fair and inclusive environment for all of its members and participants engaging in NWJSA activities.

The NWJSA has developed this Member Protection Policy to ensure it and everyone involved with NWJSA is aware of his or her legal responsibilities in relation to harassment, discrimination and child protection.

This Policy provides codes of conduct that form the basis of appropriate and ethical conduct by which everyone must abide. It is also an essential part of the NWJSA's proactive and preventative approach to tackling inappropriate behaviour.

NWJSA will not tolerate inappropriate or unlawful behaviour and will take disciplinary action against any person or organisation bound by this policy if they breach it.

As President of NWJSA I am committed to ensuring everyone associated with the NWJSA complies with this policy.

Lou Tramontin
North West Junior Soccer Association
22 February 2024

Review history of NWJSA Member Protection Policy

Version	Date reviewed	Date endorsed	Content reviewed/purpose
<i>1</i>	<i>Created January 2018</i>	<i>February 2018</i>	<i>State based template (ex OR&S) Approved and adopted by NWJSA Board</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>22 February 2024</i>	<i>30 April 2024</i>	<i>Updated legislation and/or Child Safe Policy</i>

PART A: NORTH WEST JUNIOR SOCCER ASSOCIATION MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

1. Introduction

The North West Junior Soccer (NWJSA). runs a program designed for children from as young as five years of age through to 13 years of age, junior to senior primary school students enabling them to learn about the sport of Football (Soccer). The program is designed for maximum enjoyment for all ages, the emphasis on fun and participation. The association is a non-competitive organization until the students reach their senior primary school years.

2. Purpose of this policy

This NWJSA Member Protection Policy ("policy") aims to assist NWJSA to uphold its core values and create a safe, fair and inclusive environment for everyone associated with our sport. It sets out our commitment to ensure that every person bound by the policy is treated with respect and dignity and protected from discrimination, harassment and abuse. It also seeks to ensure that everyone involved in our sport is aware of their key legal and ethical rights and responsibilities, as well as the standards of behaviour expected of them.

The attachments to this policy describe the practical steps we will take to eliminate discrimination, harassment, child abuse and other forms of inappropriate behaviour from our sport. As part of this commitment, the policy allows NWJSA to take disciplinary action against any person or organisation bound by this policy if they breach the policy.

This policy has been endorsed by the Board of Directors of NWJSA and has been incorporated into our rules. The policy starts on *5th February 2018* and has been reviewed on 22 February 2024 and will operate until replaced.

The current policy and its attachments can be obtained from our website at: www.nwjsa.org.au

3 Who is bound by this policy

This policy applies to persons who are involved with the activities of NWJSA, whether they are in a paid or unpaid/voluntary capacity including:

- a) Persons appointed or elected to boards, committees and sub-committees;
- b) Employees of NWJSA;
- c) Members of the NWJSA Executive;
- d) Support personnel, including managers, physiotherapists, psychologists, masseurs, sport trainers and others;
- e) Coaches and assistant coaches;
- f) Referees, umpires and other officials;
- g) Members, including life members of NWJSA;
- h) Athletes, coaches, officials and other personnel participating in events and activities, including camps and training sessions, held or sanctioned by NWJSA;
- i) Any other person to whom the policy may apply.

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This policy will continue to apply to a person even after he or she has stopped their association or employment with NWJSA if disciplinary action against that person has begun.

It is also intended this policy will apply to persons who are involved with Member Schools including:

- a) Players
- b) Coaches and Assistant Coaches
- c) Team Officials, including Managers and First Aid Personnel
- d) Participants, including Parents and Spectators
- e) Any other persons to whom the policy may apply

4. Organisational responsibilities

NWJSA and Member Schools must:

- a) Adopt, implement and comply with this policy;
- b) Ensure that this policy is enforceable;
- c) Publish, distribute and promote this policy and the consequences of any breaches of the policy;
- d) Promote and model appropriate standards of behaviour at all times;
- e) Deal with any complaints made under this policy in an appropriate manner;
- f) Deal with any breaches of this policy in an appropriate manner;
- g) Recognise and enforce any penalty imposed under this policy;
- h) Ensure that a copy of this policy is available or accessible to all people and organisations to whom this policy applies;
- i) Use appropriately trained people to receive and manage complaints and allegations of inappropriate behaviour [e.g. Grievance Officers];
- j) Monitor and review this policy at least annually.

5. Individual responsibilities

Individuals bound by this policy must:

- a) Make themselves aware of the contents of this policy;
- b) Comply with all relevant provisions of the policy, including any codes of conduct and the steps for making a complaint or reporting possible child abuse set out in this policy ;
- c) Consent to the screening requirements set out in this policy, and any state/territory Working with Children Checks if the person holds or applies for a role that involves regular unsupervised contact with a child or young person under the age of 18 or where otherwise required by law;
- d) Place the safety and welfare of children above other considerations;

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- e) Be accountable for their behaviour;
- f) Comply with any decisions and/or disciplinary measures imposed under this policy.

6. Position statements

6.1 Child Safeguarding

NWJSA has lodged a compliance statement with the Department of Human Services to acknowledge that we are aware of our obligations to create and maintain a child safe environment according to the requirements under the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017, Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016 and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

NWJSA has lodged this statement on behalf of all Member Schools and therefore require that these Member Schools must also be aware of these obligations and adopt and implement this policy.

NWJSA is committed to the safety and well-being of all children and young people who participate in our sport or access our services. We support the rights of the child and will act at all times to ensure that a child-safe environment is maintained.

We acknowledge the valuable contribution made by our staff, members and volunteers and we encourage their active participation in providing a safe, fair and inclusive environment for all participants.

6.1.1 Identify and analyse risk of harm

We have developed and implemented a risk management strategy, including a review of our existing child protection practices, to determine how child-safe our organisation is and to identify any additional steps we can take to minimise and prevent the risk of harm to children because of the actions of an employee, volunteer or another person.

6.1.2 Develop codes of behaviour

We have developed and promote a code of behaviour that sets out the conduct we expect of adults when they deal and interact with children involved in our sport, especially those in our care. We will also implement a code of behaviour to promote appropriate conduct between children.

These codes will clearly describe professional boundaries, ethical behaviour and unacceptable behavior. (Refer to our Child Safe Environment Policy - Code of Conduct section and the attachments in Part B of this policy.)

6.1.3 Choose suitable employees and volunteers

We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that our organisation engages suitable and appropriate people to work with children, especially those in positions that involve regular unsupervised contact with children. This will include using a range of screening measures.

We will ensure that Working with Children Checks are conducted for all over 14 years of age employees and volunteers who work with children, where an assessment is required by law. (Refer to the Child Safe Environment Policy - Recruitment section and attachments in Part C of this policy.)

We will require our Member Schools to first and foremost adhere to their own Child Safeguarding and Volunteer Engagement procedures. The relevant procedures are:

DECD Schools

[Volunteer Policy](#) reviewed July 2023 (Attachment F1).

Catholic Education South Australia Schools

[Procedure for Engaging and Inducting Volunteers](#) October 2022 (Attachment F2.)

Independent Schools

Child Protection Guidelines 2016 (Attachment F3).

6.1.4 Support, train, supervise and enhance performance

We will ensure that all our employees and volunteers who work with children have ongoing supervision, support and training. Our goal is to develop their skills and capacity and to enhance their performance so we can maintain a child-safe environment in our sport. The child safe officer role will be established to support this statement and the appointment of the person to this role will be reviewed annually.

6.1.5: Empower and promote the participation of children

We will encourage children and young people to be involved in developing and maintaining a child-safe environment for our sport.

6.1.6: Report and respond appropriately to suspected harm or risk of harm to children and young people

We will ensure that all our employees and volunteers are able to identify and respond appropriately to children at risk of harm and that they are aware of their responsibilities under state laws to make a report if they suspect on reasonable grounds that a child has been, or is being, abused or neglected. (Refer to the Child Safe Environment Policy – Reporting and Responding to Harm or Risk of Harm section.)

6.1.7: Manage appropriately any allegation of misconduct towards children

We will treat any allegations of harm or risk of harm towards children participating in activities associated with our organisation responsibly and sensitively. This will include providing support for the alleged victim and their family and ensuring natural justice is provided for the alleged offender.

[Suspicion of Harm Against A Child - Play by the Rules - Making Sport inclusive, safe and fair](#)

6.2 Taking images of children

There is a risk that Images of children may be used inappropriately or illegally. NWJSA requires that individuals and Member Schools, wherever possible, obtain permission from a child's parent/guardian before taking an image of a child that is not their own. They should also make sure the parent/guardian understands how the image will be used.

To respect people's privacy, we do not allow camera phones, videos and cameras to be used inside changing areas, showers and toilets which we control or are used in connection with our sport.

When using a photo of a child, we will not name or identify the child or publish personal information, such as residential address, email address or telephone number, without the consent of the child's parent/guardian. We will not provide information about a child's

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hobbies, interests, school or the like, as this can be used by paedophiles or other persons to “groom” a child.

We will only use images of children that are relevant to our sport and we will ensure that they are suitably clothed in a manner that promotes participation in the sport. We will seek permission from the parents/guardians of the children before using the images. We require our members and member schools to do likewise.

6.3 Anti-discrimination and harassment

NWJSA is committed to providing an environment in which people are treated fairly and equitably and that is, as far as practicable, free from all forms of discrimination and harassment.

We recognise that people may not be able to enjoy themselves or perform at their best if they are treated unfairly, discriminated against or harassed.

6.3.1 Discrimination

Unlawful discrimination involves the less favourable treatment of a person on the basis of one or more of the personal characteristics protected by state or federal anti-discrimination laws.

The personal characteristics protected by anti-discrimination laws include attributes such as race, age, disability, gender and race. The full list of protected personal characteristics is in the “Definitions” set out in the Dictionary of Terms.

Discrimination can be either direct or indirect.

- **Direct** discrimination occurs if a person treats, or proposes to treat, a person with a protected personal characteristic unfavourably because of that personal characteristic.
- **Indirect** discrimination occurs if a person imposes, or proposes to impose, a requirement, condition or practice that will disadvantage a person with a protected personal characteristic and that requirement, condition or practice is not reasonable.

For the purposes of determining discrimination, the offender’s awareness and motive are irrelevant.

6.3.2 Harassment

Harassment is any unwelcome conduct, verbal or physical, that intimidates, offends or humiliates another person and which happens because a person has a certain personal characteristic protected by State or Federal anti-discrimination legislation.

The offensive behaviour does not have to take place a number of times, a single incident can constitute harassment.

Sexual harassment is one type of harassment. Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct, remarks or innuendo of a sexual nature. It covers a wide range of behaviour and can be verbal, written, visual or physical. Sexual harassment is not limited to members of the opposite sex.

6.3.3 Prohibition against discrimination and harassment

We prohibit all forms of harassment and discrimination based on the personal characteristics listed in the “Definitions” set out in the Dictionary of Terms.

Any person who believes they are being, or have been, harassed or discriminated against by another person or organisation bound by this policy is encouraged to raise their concerns with us. A person may make an internal complaint, and in some circumstances, they may also be able to make a complaint to an external organisation. (Refer to the attachments in Part D of this policy.)

6.4 Intimate relationships

We prohibit all forms of intimate relationship between coaches or officials and players.

Coaches and officials are required to conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner in all interactions with players. In particular, they must ensure that they treat players in a respectful and fair manner, and that they do not engage in sexual harassment, bullying, favoritism or exploitation.

We require that if a player attempts to initiate an intimate relationship with a coach or official, the coach or official will discourage the player’s approach and explain to the player why such a relationship is not appropriate.

6.5 Pregnancy

NWJSA is committed to treating pregnant women fairly and to removing any unreasonable barriers to their full participation in our sport. We will not tolerate any discrimination or harassment against pregnant women.

NWJSA will take reasonable care to ensure the continuing safety, health and wellbeing of pregnant women. We will advise pregnant women that there may be risks involved with their continuing participation in sport, and we will encourage them to obtain medical advice about those risks. Pregnant women should be aware that their own health and wellbeing, and that of their unborn child, is of utmost importance in their decision-making about the extent they choose to participate in our sport.

We encourage all pregnant women to talk with their medical advisers, make themselves aware of the facts about pregnancy in sport and ensure that they make informed decisions about their participation in our sport. Pregnant women should make these decisions themselves, in consultation with their medical advisers and in discussion NWJSA.

We will only require pregnant women to sign a disclaimer in relation to their participation in our sport whilst they are pregnant if all other participants are required to sign one in similar circumstances. We will not require women to undertake a pregnancy test.

If a pregnant woman believes she is being, or has been, harassed or discriminated against by another person or organisation bound by this Policy, she may make a complaint. (Refer to the attachments in Part D of this policy.)

6.6 Gender identity

Gender identity means the gender-related identity, appearance or mannerisms or other gender-related characteristics of a person. This includes the way people express or present their gender and recognises that a person’s gender identity may be an identity

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other than male or female. Some terms used to describe a person's gender identity include transgender and gender diverse.

6.6.1 Gender identity discrimination and harassment

Federal, state and territory anti-discrimination laws provide protection from discrimination against people on the basis of their gender identity. (See definition in Dictionary of terms).

NWJSA is committed to providing a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment all where people can contribute and participate. We will not tolerate any unlawful discrimination or harassment of a person because of their gender identity.

All persons, regardless of gender identity, are entitled to be treated fairly and with dignity and respect at all times. We will not tolerate any unlawful discrimination or harassment of a person because of their gender identity. This includes discrimination or harassment of a person who is transgender or transsexual, who is assumed to be transgender or transsexual or has an association with someone who has or is assumed to be transgender or transsexual. (Refer to the attachments in Part D of this policy.)

We expect all people bound by this policy to act with sensitivity when a person is undergoing gender transition/affirmation.

If any person believes that they are being, or have been, harassed or discriminated against by another person or organisation bound by this policy because of their gender identity, they may make a complaint.

6.6.2 Participation in sport

NWJSA recognises that excluding people from participating in sporting events and activities because of their gender identity may have significant implications for their health, wellbeing and involvement in community life. We are committed to supporting participation in our sport on the basis of the gender with which a person identifies.

If issues of performance advantage arise, we will consider whether the established discrimination exceptions for participation in sport are relevant in the circumstances. Discrimination is unlawful unless an exception applies.

Drug testing procedures and prohibitions also apply to people who identify as transgender. A person receiving treatment involving a Prohibited Substance or Method, as described on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List, should apply for a standard Therapeutic Use Exemption.

6.6.3. Intersex status

Federal anti-discrimination law, and some state and territory anti-discrimination laws, provide protection from discrimination against a person on the basis of their intersex status. (See Dictionary of terms).

NWJSA is committed to providing a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment where all people can contribute and participate. We will not tolerate any unlawful discrimination or harassment of a person because of their intersex status.

6.7 Responsible service and consumption of alcohol

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NWJSA prohibits the service and consumption of Alcohol on its playing venues. We also recommend that member schools follow strict guidelines regarding the service and consumption of alcohol.

In general, our policy is that:

- Alcohol should not be available or consumed at sporting events involving children and young people under the age of 18;
- Alcohol-free social events be provided for young people and families;
- Food and low-alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks be available at events we hold or endorse where alcohol is served;
- A staff member is present at events we hold or endorse where alcohol is served to ensure appropriate practices in respect of the consumption of alcohol are followed;
- Safe transport options be promoted as part of any event we hold or endorse where alcohol is served.

6.8 Smoke-free environment

As from 1 March 2024 Government Legislation

[Smoke-Free and Vape-Free Laws](#)

NWJSA is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment at all sporting and social events that we hold or endorse.

Smoking & Vaping is prohibited:

- at all NWJSA venues and sanctioned events and
- within ten (10) meters of a sporting venue during an organised underage sporting event, training or practice session
- Coaches, officials, trainers, volunteers, and players will refrain from smoking while they are involved in an official capacity in our sport, both on and off the field.

6.9 Bullying

NWJSA is committed to providing an environment that is free from bullying. We understand that bullying has the potential to result in significant negative consequences for an individual's health and wellbeing, and we regard bullying in all forms as unacceptable in our sport.

Bullying is characterised by repeated, unreasonable behaviour directed at a person, or group of persons, that creates a risk to health and safety. Bullying behaviour is that which a reasonable person in the circumstances would expect to victimise, humiliate, undermine, threaten, degrade, offend or intimidate a person. Bullying behaviour can include actions of an individual or a group.

Whilst generally characterised by repeated behaviours, one-off instances can amount to bullying.

The following types of behaviour, where repeated or occurring as part of a pattern of behaviour, would be considered bullying:

- verbal abuse including shouting, swearing, teasing, making belittling remarks or persistent unjustified criticism;
- excluding or isolating a group or person;

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- spreading malicious rumours; or
- psychological harassment such as intimidation.

Bullying includes cyber-bullying which occurs through the use of technology. New technologies and communication tools, such as smart phones and social networking websites, have greatly increased the potential for people to be bullied through unwanted and inappropriate comments. NWJSA will not tolerate abusive, discriminatory, intimidating or offensive statements being made online. Frustration at a referee, teammate, coach or sporting body should never be communicated on social networking websites. These issues should instead be addressed – in a written or verbal statement or a complaint – to the relevant controlling club, league or peak sporting body.

If any person believes they are being, or have been, bullied by another person or organisation bound by this policy, he or she may make a complaint. (Refer to the attachments in Part D of this policy).

6.10 Social networking

NWJSA acknowledges the enormous value of social networking to promote our sport and celebrate the achievements and success of the people involved in our sport.

Social networking refers to any interactive website or technology that enables people to communicate and/or share content via the internet. This includes social networking websites such as Facebook and Twitter.

We expect all people bound by this policy to conduct themselves appropriately when using social networking sites to share information related to our sport.

In particular, social media activity including, but not limited to, postings, blogs, status updates, and tweets:

- must not contain material which is, or has the potential to be, offensive, aggressive, defamatory, threatening, discriminatory, obscene, profane, harassing, embarrassing, intimidating, sexually explicit, bullying, hateful, racist, sexist or otherwise inappropriate;
- must not contain material which is inaccurate, misleading or fraudulent;
- must not contain material which is in breach of laws, court orders, undertakings or contracts;
- should respect and maintain the privacy of others; and
- should promote the sport in a positive way.

7. Complaints procedures

7.1 Handling complaints

NWJSA aims to provide a simple, confidential and trustworthy procedure for resolving complaints based on the principles of procedural fairness.

Any person (a complainant) may report a complaint about a person, people or organisation bound by this policy (respondent) if they feel they have been discriminated against, harassed, bullied or there has been any other breach of this policy.

In the first instance, complaints should be reported to the School Delegate.

A complaint may be handled informally or formally. The complainant may indicate his or her preferred option and the School Delegate should consider whether that is an

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appropriate way to handle the particular complaint. For example, the law may require that the complaint/allegation be reported to an appropriate authority.

All complaints will be dealt with promptly, seriously, sensitively and confidentially. Our procedures for handling and resolving complaints are outlined in Attachment D1 and in NWJSA Regulations.

Individuals and organisations may also seek to have their complaint handled by an external agency under anti-discrimination, child protection, criminal or other relevant legislation.

7.2 Vexatious complaints and victimisation

NWJSA aims to ensure that our complaints procedure has integrity and is free of unfair repercussions or victimisation against any person making a complaint.

We will take all necessary steps to make sure that people involved in a complaint are not victimised. Disciplinary measures may be undertaken in respect of a person who harasses or victimises another person for making a complaint or supporting another person's complaint.

If at any point in the complaint handling process the Grievance Officer considers that a complainant has knowingly made an untrue complaint, or the complaint is malicious or inappropriately intended to cause distress to the respondent, the matter may be referred in writing to the NWJSA Board for review and appropriate action, including possible disciplinary action against the complainant.

7.3 Mediation

NWJSA aims to resolve complaints quickly and fairly. Complaints may be resolved by agreement between the people involved with no need for disciplinary action.

Mediation is a confidential process that allows those involved in a complaint to discuss the issues or incident in question and come up with mutually agreed solutions. It may occur before or after the investigation of a complaint.

If a complainant wishes to resolve the complaint with the help of a mediator, the Grievance Officer will, in consultation with the complainant, arrange for an independent mediator where possible.

More information on the mediation process is outlined in Attachment [D2].

7.4 Tribunals

In accordance with NWJSA rules a Tribunal may be convened to hear a proceeding referred to it by the Grievance Officer

Our Tribunal procedure is outlined in Attachment [D4].

A respondent may lodge an appeal to the Appeal Tribunal in respect of a Tribunal decision. The decision of the Appeal Tribunal is final and binding on the people involved. Our appeals process is outlined in Attachment [D4].

Every Member School bound by this policy will recognise and enforce any decision of a Tribunal or Appeal Tribunal under this policy.

8. What is a breach of this policy?

It is a breach of this policy for any person or organisation bound by this policy to do anything contrary to this policy, including but not limited to:

- a) Breaching the codes of behaviour (see Part B of this policy);
- b) Failing to follow NWJSA policies and our procedures for the protection, safety and well-being of children;
- c) Discriminating against, harassing or bullying (including cyber-bullying) any person;
- d) Victimising another person for making or supporting a complaint;
- e) Engaging in an inappropriate intimate relationship with a person that he or she supervises, or has influence, authority or power over;
- f) Verbally or physically assaulting another person, intimidating another person or creating a hostile environment within the sport;
- g) Disclosing to any unauthorised person or organisation any NWJSA information that is of a private, confidential or privileged nature;
- h) Making a complaint that they know to be untrue, vexatious, malicious or improper;
- i) Failing to comply with a penalty imposed after a finding that the individual or organisation has breached this policy;
- j) Failing to comply with a direction given to the individual or organisation as part of a disciplinary process.

9. Disciplinary measures

NWJSA may impose disciplinary measures on an individual or Member School for a breach of this policy.

Any disciplinary measure imposed will be:

- fair and reasonable;
- applied consistent with any contractual and employment rules and requirements;
- be based on the evidence and information presented and the seriousness of the breach; and
- be determined in accordance with our constituent documents, by-laws, this policy and/or the rules of the sport.

9.1 Individual

Subject to contractual and employment requirements, if a finding is made by a Tribunal that an individual has breached this policy, one or more of the following forms of discipline may be imposed.

- a) A direction that the individual make a verbal and/or written apology;
- b) A written warning;
- c) A direction that the individual attend counselling to address their behaviour;
- d) A suspension of the individual's membership or participation or engagement in a role or activity;
- e) Termination of the individual's membership, appointment or engagement;

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- f) A recommendation that NWJSA terminate the individual's membership, appointment or engagement;
- g) In the case of a coach or official, a direction that the relevant organisation de-register the accreditation of the coach or official for a period of time or permanently;
- h) Any other form of discipline that Tribunal considers appropriate.

9.2 Organisation

If a finding is made that a Member School has breached its own or this Member Protection Policy, one or more of the following forms of discipline may be imposed by the Tribunal

- a) A written warning;
- b) A recommendation to NWJSA that its membership be suspended or terminated in accordance with the relevant constitution or rules;
- c) A recommendation to NWJSA that it be disqualified from a particular competition or have points deducted (where applicable);
- d) Any other form of discipline that the state body or peak organisation considers reasonable and appropriate.

9.3 Factors to consider

The form of discipline to be imposed on an individual or organisation will depend on factors, such as:

- The nature and seriousness of the breach;
- If the person knew, or should have known, that the behaviour was a breach of the policy;
- The person's level of contrition;
- The effect of the proposed disciplinary measures on the person, including any personal, professional or financial consequences;
- If there have been any relevant prior warnings or disciplinary action;
- The ability to enforce disciplinary measures if the person is a parent or spectator (even if they are bound by the policy);
- Any other mitigating circumstances.

10. Dictionary of terms

This Dictionary sets out the meaning of words used in this policy and its attachments, without limiting the ordinary and natural meaning of the words. Further detail or definitions that are specific to different states and territories can be sourced from the relevant child protection authorities or equal opportunity and anti-discrimination commissions.

Abuse is the violation of an individual's human or civil rights through the act or actions of another person or persons. Types of abuse include physical abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, sexual abuse, constraints and restrictive practices, financial abuse, legal or civil abuse and systemic abuse.

Child means a person who is under the age of 18.

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Child Safe Officer means the person appointed by the NWJSA or Member School to assist with maintaining a child safe environment. Training is available

[Child Safeguarding | Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing \(orsr.sa.gov.au\)](https://orsr.sa.gov.au)

[Play by the Rules Online Courses - Play by the Rules - Making Sport inclusive, safe and fair](#)

Complaint means a complaint made under clause 7 of this policy

Complainant means the person making a complaint.

Complaint handler/manager means the person appointed under this policy to investigate a complaint. Online training for complaint handlers can be accessed through [Play by the Rules Online Courses - Play by the Rules - Making Sport inclusive, safe and fair](#)

Discrimination occurs when someone is treated (or is proposed to be treated) unfairly or less favourably than another person in the same or similar circumstances because of one of the personal characteristics covered by anti-discrimination laws. This is known as direct discrimination. Indirect discrimination occurs when there is (or is proposed) an unreasonable requirement, condition or practice that seems to treat everyone equally, but which has or is likely to have the effect of disadvantaging persons with a personal characteristic covered by anti-discrimination laws.

In Australia, it is against the law to discriminate against someone because of:

- a) Age;
- b) Sex or gender;
- c) Gender identity;
- d) Intersex status;
- e) Race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, nationality, ethno-religious origin, immigration;
- f) Disability, mental and physical impairment;
- g) Family/carer responsibilities, status as a parent or carer;
- h) Marital status;
- i) Pregnancy, potential pregnancy, breastfeeding;
- j) Sexual orientation and gender identity;
- k) Physical features;
- l) Irrelevant medical record;
- m) Irrelevant criminal record, spent convictions;
- n) Political beliefs or activities;
- o) Religion, religious beliefs or activities;
- p) National extraction or social origin;
- q) Lawful sexual activity;
- r) Profession, trade, occupation or calling;
- s) Member of association or organisation of employees or employers, industrial activity, trade union activity;
- t) Defence service;

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- u) Personal association with someone who has, or is assumed to have, any of the above characteristics.

Examples of discrimination are available on the Play by the Rules website:

www.playbytherules.net.au/legal-stuff/discrimination

[Australian Sports Commission | Australian Sports Commission \(ausport.gov.au\)](http://Australian Sports Commission | Australian Sports Commission (ausport.gov.au))

Some exceptions to state, territory and federal anti-discrimination law apply, including exceptions for sporting activities, such as:

- holding a competitive sporting activity for a specific age or age group (e.g. only those who are under the age of 15 years);
- excluding people on the basis of their 'excluding people on the basis of their sex and/or gender identity status from participation in a competitive sporting activity where the strength, stamina or physique of competitors is relevant to the specific activity (note that this does not apply to activity by children who are under the age of 12 years); and
- not selecting a participant if the person's disability means he or she is not reasonably capable of performing the actions reasonably required for that particular sporting activity.

Grievance Officer means a person appointed by NWJSA to be a point of contact for a member reporting an issue or a complaint under, or a breach of, this policy

Harassment is any type of unwelcome behaviour which has the effect of offending, humiliating or intimidating the person harassed. Unlawful harassment can be based on any of the personal characteristics covered by anti-discrimination law, such as a person's race, sex, pregnancy, marital status or sexual orientation (see the list under "Discrimination").

Public acts of racial hatred which are reasonably likely to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate are also prohibited. This applies to spectators, participants or any other person who engages in such an act in public. Some states and territories also prohibit public acts that vilify people on other grounds such as homosexuality, gender identity, HIV/AIDS, religion and disability (see also "Vilification").

Harm Section 17 of the Safety Act defines 'harm' to mean physical or psychological harm (whether caused by an act or omission), including harm caused by sexual, physical, mental or emotional abuse or neglect.

- a. physical harm, which occurs when a child has suffered, or is at risk of suffering, non-accidental physical trauma or injury. This may include, but is not limited to, hitting, shaking or other physical harm; giving a child alcohol or drugs; or training that exceeds the child's development or maturity.
- b. sexual abuse, which occurs when an adult, other child, or adolescent uses their power or authority to involve a child in a sexual activity or any other inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature (e.g. sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, pornography, including child pornography, or inappropriate touching or conversations).
- c. emotional harm, which occurs when a child's social, emotional, cognitive or intellectual development is impaired or threatened. Emotional abuse can include,

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but is not limited to, emotional deprivation due to persistent rejection or criticism, hostility, teasing/bullying, humiliation, taunting, sarcasm, yelling, name-calling or placing unrealistic expectations on a child.

- d. neglect, which occurs when a child's basic necessities of life are not met, and their health and development are affected. Basic needs include food, water, shelter, adequate clothing, personal hygiene, timely provision of medical treatment and adequate supervision.

Member School means a school that enters teams or players in the Football program administered by the NWJSA.

Member means The Member School.

Procedural fairness requires that:

- the respondent knows the full details of what is being said against him or her and they have the opportunity to respond;
- no person may judge their own case; and
- the decision-maker(s) must be unbiased, fair and just.

Police check means a national criminal history record check conducted as a pre-employment, pre-engagement or current employment background check on a person.

Policy, policy and this policy means this Member Protection Policy.

Respondent means the person whose behaviour is the subject of the complaint.

Role-specific codes of conduct means standards of conduct required of people holding certain roles in our organisation (e.g. coaches, officials, umpires).

Sexual harassment means unwelcome behaviour of a sexual nature which could reasonably be expected to make a person feel humiliated, intimidated or offended. Sexual harassment can take many different forms and may include unwelcome physical contact, verbal comments, jokes, propositions, displays of pornographic or offensive material or other behaviour that creates a sexually hostile environment. Sexual harassment does not have to be intentional.

Sexual offence means a criminal offence involving sexual activity or acts of indecency. Because of differences under state and territory laws, this can include but is not limited to:

- a) Rape;
- b) Indecent assault;
- c) Sexual assault;
- d) Assault with intent to commit sexual acts;
- e) Incest;
- f) Sexual penetration of child under the age of 16 years;
- g) Indecent act with child under the age of 16 years;
- h) Sexual relationship with child under the age of 16 years;
- i) Sexual offences against people with impaired mental functioning;
- j) Abduction and detention;

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- k) Procuring sexual penetration by threats or fraud;
- l) Procuring sexual penetration of child under the age of 16 years;
- m) Bestiality;
- n) Soliciting a child under the age of 16 years to take part in an act of sexual penetration, or an indecent act;
- o) Promoting or engaging in acts of child prostitution;
- p) Obtaining benefits from child prostitution;
- q) Possession of child pornography;
- r) Publishing child pornography and indecent articles.

Tribunal: For the purpose of Discipline Measures, a Tribunal is a collection of persons authorized by the NWJSA Board to hear proceedings and make determinations.

Transgender 'Transgender' is an umbrella term that refers to a person whose gender identity is different to their physical sex as recorded at birth. Transitioning refers to the process where a transgender person commences living as a member of another sex. This is sometimes referred to as the person 'affirming' their gender because transitioning means they start living in what they identify as their true gender. For people who are transitioning/affirming their gender, having their identity fully recognised in all areas of life is a crucial part of the experience of living as their affirmed gender.

Sexual orientation: The term 'sexual orientation' refers to a person's emotional or sexual attraction to another person, including, amongst others, the following identities: heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, asexual or same-sex attracted.

Gender identity: The term 'gender identity' refers to a person's deeply held internal and individual sense of gender.

Gender expression: The term 'gender expression' refers to the way in which a person externally expresses their gender or how they are perceived by others.

Intersex: The term 'intersex' refers to people who have genetic, hormonal or physical characteristics that are not exclusively 'male' or 'female'. A person who is intersex may identify as male, female, intersex or as being of indeterminate sex.

Victimisation means treating someone unfairly or unfavorably, or threatening to do so, because that person has, or intends to, pursue their right to make any complaint, including a complaint under government legislation (e.g. anti-discrimination legislation) or under this policy, or for supporting another person to make complaint.

Vilification means behaviour that occurs in public which incites hatred towards, serious contempt for, or revulsion or severe ridicule of a person or group of people because that person or persons have a particular personal characteristic. Anti-discrimination laws in Australia make it unlawful to vilify a person or group of persons on the basis of race, religion, homosexuality, transgender status and HIV/AIDS status.

PART B: CODES OF CONDUCT

We seek to provide a safe, fair and inclusive environment for everyone involved in our organisation and in our sport.

To achieve this, we require certain standards of behavior by players/athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, parents/guardians (of child participants) and spectators.

Our codes of behaviour are underpinned by the following core values.

- To act within the rules and spirit of our sport.
- To display respect and courtesy towards everyone involved in our sport and prevent discrimination and harassment.
- To prioritise the safety and well-being of children and young people involved in our sport.
- To encourage and support opportunities for participation in all aspects of our sport.

Refer to the Child Safe Environment Policy for our child focused Code of Conduct.

B1 Coaches & Team Officials Code of Conduct

As a Coach or Team Official I will:

1. Abide by the NWJSA Competition Rules.
2. Accept the decisions of referees and act respectfully towards all NWJSA officials at all times.
3. Respect the rights and dignity of all players and team officials at all times.
4. Refrain from engaging in violence, discrimination, harassment or abuse in any form towards any person and report any forms of violence, discrimination, harassment or abuse directed towards players in my care to an NWJSA official.
5. Ensure that all players are made aware of their responsibilities under the NWJSA Code of Conduct and take all reasonable steps to ensure that players adhere to it.
6. Ensure that the time players spend with me is a positive experience.
7. Ensure all players receive similar game time and avoid overplaying the talented players.
8. Provide a safe environment for training and competition by ensuring that equipment and facilities meet safety standards.
9. Display calmness, composure, respect and professionalism and refrain from acts of aggression to all involved with the sport. These include opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, parents and spectators and encourage players to do the same.
10. Avoid any physical contact with the players. Should contact be required, ensure it is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
11. Respect all players' individuality and help them reach their own full potential.
12. Make no detrimental statements in public (internet social media, print, radio) in respect of the performance of any match officials, team players or any policy decisions of Member Schools or the NWJSA.
13. Avert the demoralisation of opposition teams by endeavouring to prevent excessive score margins.

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14. In the case of coaches of the U10, U11, U12 and Seniors age groups and Team Officials of all age groups, I will not enter the field of play during a game unless prompted by the Match Official.
15. Encourage players to drink water before, during and immediately after sport participation and discourage players from drinking sugar-sweetened drinks.
16. Discourage parents of players from providing lollies and sugary snacks before, during and after sport.

B2 Parents & Spectators Code of Conduct

As a Parent or Spectator I will:

1. Respect the decisions of Match Officials and teach children to do the same.
2. Respect the rights and dignity of all participants at all times.
3. Never ridicule, criticise or unduly scold a child for making a mistake.
4. Refrain from engaging in violence, discrimination, harassment or abuse in any form against any person, whether they be spectators, team officials, coaches, match officials or players.
5. Encourage children to participate, if they are interested. However, if a child is not willing, not force them.
6. Focus on developing skills, playing the game and doing their best is what they should be trying to achieve. Take the emphasis away from winning.
7. Set an example by always behaving well. Applaud good play by all players and teams.
8. Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators.
9. Not enter the field of play during a game unless prompted by the match official.
10. Provide a drink bottle with water and encourage players to drink plain water before, during and immediately after sport participation.
11. Refrain from providing lollies for sport participation. Instead, provide fresh snacks, or oranges for half time or designated breaks.
12. Not leave my child or a child in my care, at an NWJSA venue, unattended or unsupervised.

B3 Players Code of Conduct

As a Player I will:

1. Respect all participants at all times.
2. Respect and follow the directions of team officials and referees.
3. Refrain from using violence, discrimination, harassment or abuse in any form against any person.
4. Never yell at, ridicule or criticise other participants.
5. Play to the best of my ability in a fair manner.
6. Acknowledge all good plays whether they are by my team or the opposition team.
7. Shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game.

B4 Match Officials Code of Conduct

As a Match Official I will:

1. Be honest and completely impartial at all times.
2. Apply the Laws of the Game and competition rules fairly and consistently.
3. Manage the game in a positive, calm and confident manner.
4. Deal with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behaviour, foul play and other misconduct.
5. Never tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour from players and officials.
6. Support my match official colleagues at all times.
7. Set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour and showing respect to everyone involved in the game.
8. Communicate with the players and encourage fair play.
9. Respond in a clear, calm and confident manner to any appropriate request for clarification by the team captains.
10. Prepare physically and mentally for every match.
11. Complete and submit, accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games in which I officiate.

PART C: EMPLOYMENT SCREENING / WORKING WITH CHILDREN ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

We are committed to providing a safe environment for children and young people. As part of this, we will recruit staff and volunteers who do not pose a risk to children and young people.

Refer to the Child Safe Environment Policy Recruitment section for all Working with Children Check requirements in South Australia.

NWJSA, including our Member Schools, will meet the requirements of the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016.

Individuals travelling with children and young people to another state or territory in a work-related capacity must comply with the screening requirements of that particular state or territory.

Working with Children Check laws are currently in place in all Australian States and Territories.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment C1: Member Protection Declaration
- Attachment C2: National Working with Children Check requirements
- Attachment C3: Child Safe Environment Compliance

Attachment C1:
MEMBER PROTECTION DECLARATION

NWJSA has a duty of care to all those associated with our organisation and to the individuals and organisations to whom this policy applies. It is a requirement of our Member Protection Policy that we check the background of each person who works, coaches or has regular unsupervised contact with children and young people under the age of 18 years.

I (name) of

..... (address) born/...../.....

sincerely declare:

1. I do not have any criminal charge pending before the courts.
2. I do not have any criminal convictions or findings of guilt for sexual offences, offences related to children or acts of violence.
3. I have not had any disciplinary proceedings brought against me by an employer, sporting organisation or similar body involving child abuse, sexual misconduct or harassment, other forms of harassment or acts of violence. I am not currently serving a sanction for an anti-doping rule violation under an Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) approved anti-doping policy applicable to me.
4. I will not participate in, facilitate or encourage any practice prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency Code or any other ASADA approved anti-doping policy applicable to me.
5. To my knowledge, there is no other matter that NWJSA may consider to constitute a risk to its members, employees, volunteers, athletes or reputation by engaging me.
6. I will notify the Principal or Chairman of the organisation/s engaging me immediately upon becoming aware that any matter set out above has changed.

Declared in the state/territory of

on/...../.....(date) Signature

Consent of parent/guardian (on behalf of a person under the age of 18 years)

I have read and understood the declaration provided by my child. I confirm and warrant that the contents of the declaration provided by my child are true and correct in every particular.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Attachment C2:

NATIONAL WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK REQUIREMENTS

Working with Children Check requirements vary across Australia. [Fact Sheets](#) for each state and territory are available on the Play by the Rules website: www.playbytherules.net

It is important to remember that when travelling to other states or territories, representatives of sporting organisations must comply with the legislative requirements of that particular state or territory.

In certain jurisdictions, temporary, time limited exemptions from working with children checks may be available for interstate visitors with a Working with Children Check in their home state.

The laws providing interstate exemptions are not consistent across Australia.

If an employee or volunteer for your organisation is travelling interstate to do work that would normally require a working for children check, you will need to check the relevant requirements of that state or territory.

Attachment C3:

CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE

Member School _____

1. Endorses and agrees to abide by the NWJSA Member Protection Policy and endorses the Child Safe Environment Compliance Statement lodged by the NWJSA with the South Australian Department of Education and Child Development.
2. Agrees to implement and adhere to the steps outlined in this document to ensure that the Member School is compliant.

School Principal Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

PART D: COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES

We will deal with all complaints in a fair, timely and transparent manner. All complaints will be treated seriously.

We will provide individuals with an informal and informal process to resolve the matter, along with access to an external complaint handling body, based on the nature of the complaint and our rules and regulations.

We also provide an appeals process for those matters.

We will maintain confidentiality where possible and as provided in this policy and seek to ensure that no one is victimised for making, supporting or providing information about a complaint.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment D1: Complaints procedure
- Attachment D2. Mediation
- Attachment D3. Investigation procedure
- Attachment D4. Tribunal procedure
- Attachment D5 NWJSA Grievance Flow Chart

Attachment D1: COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

NWJSA is committed to supporting people associated with our sport to make and resolve any complaints they may have in a fair, timely and effective way.

We will endeavour to deal with complaints on a confidential basis.

We will not provide information about the complaint to another person without the complainant's consent, except if the law requires us disclose this information or it is necessary to properly deal with the complaint. To ensure fairness for everyone involved, we will provide the full details of the complaint to the person or people against whom the complaint has been made and ask for their response. As a result, it may be difficult for us to resolve complaints made anonymously.

We will provide **informal and formal procedures** to deal with complaints. Individuals and organisations can also make **complaints to external organisations** under anti-discrimination, child protection and other relevant laws.

Informal approaches

Step 1: Talk with the other person (if safe, reasonable and appropriate)

If you feel confident and comfortable to do so, you can approach the other person to discuss the issues and try and resolve the problem directly.

Step 2: Your School's Delegate

We encourage you to talk your School's Delegate if:

- step 1 (above) is not appropriate;
- you are not sure how to handle the problem by yourself;

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- you want to talk confidentially with someone and find out what options are available to address your concern; or
- the concern continues after you approached the other person.

The School Delegate will:

- ask how you would like your concern to be resolved and if you need support
- seek to provide different options for you to address your concern
- act as a support person, if you wish
- refer you to an appropriate person (e.g. a mediator) to help you address your concern, if appropriate
- inform the relevant government authorities and/or police, if required by law to do so
- where possible and appropriate, maintain confidentiality.

Step 3: Decide how to address your concern

After talking with the School Delegate you and the School Delegate may decide:

- there is no problem;
- the problem is minor and you do not wish to take the matter forward;
- to try and resolve the problem yourself, with or without a support person;
- to resolve the problem with the help of someone impartial, such as a mediator; or
- to resolve the matter through a formal process.

Formal approaches

Step 4: Making a formal complaint

If it is not possible or appropriate to resolve your complaint through an informal process, you and the School Delegate may:

- make a formal complaint in writing to the NWJSA Grievance Officer, or
- approach a relevant external agency, such as an anti-discrimination or equal opportunity commission, for advice and assistance.

After receiving a formal complaint, and based on the material you provide, the NWJSA Grievance Officer will decide whether:

- he or she is the most appropriate person to receive and handle the complaint;
- the nature and seriousness of the complaint requires a formal resolution procedure;
- to refer the complaint to mediation;
- to appoint a person to investigate the complaint;
- to refer the complaint to a tribunal hearing;
- to engage The State Sport Dispute Centre to provide an independent mediation or a tribunal hearing
- to refer the matter to the police or other appropriate authority; and/or
- to implement any interim arrangements that will apply until the complaint process is completed.

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In dealing with your formal complaint, the NWJSA Grievance Officer will take into account:

- the NWJSA Grievance Resolution Procedure outlined in attachment D5
- whether he or she has had any personal involvement in the circumstances and if so, whether it is appropriate someone else should handle the complaint;
- your wishes, and the wishes of the respondent, regarding how the complaint should be handled;
- the relationship between you and the respondent (e.g. an actual or perceived power imbalance between you and the respondent);
- whether the facts of the complaint are in dispute; and
- the urgency of the complaint, including the possibility that you might face further unacceptable behaviour while the complaint process is underway.

If the NWJSA Grievance Officer is the appropriate person to handle the complaint, he or she will, where appropriate and/or necessary:

- provide the information received from you to the other person(s) involved and ask for a response;
- decide if there is enough information to determine whether the matter alleged in your complaint did or did not occur; and/or
- determine what, if any, further action to take, including referring the matter for investigation or disciplinary action in accordance with this policy.

Step 5: Investigating the complaint

In some cases, an investigation may be required to determine the facts surrounding the complaint. Our investigations procedure is outlined in Attachment D3.

Following the investigation, a written report will be provided to the NWJSA Board.

- If the complaint is referred to mediation, we will follow the steps outlined in Attachment D2 or as agreed by you, the respondent and the mediator.
- If the complaint is referred to a tribunal hearing, the hearing will be conducted according to the steps outlined in Attachment D4.
- If the complaint is referred to the police or another external agency, we will endeavour to provide all reasonable assistance required by the police or the agency.

Any costs incurred by us relating to the complaint process set out in this policy (e.g. investigation, mediation and/or a tribunal hearing) are to be met by the complainant unless otherwise stated.

Step 6: Reconsidering a complaint or appealing a decision

If the matter is referred to mediation and is not resolved at mediation, you may request that the NWJSA Grievance Officer reconsider the complaint in accordance with Step 3.

In accordance with NWJSA rules you or the respondent(s) may also appeal a decision made at a tribunal hearing. The grounds and process for appeals are set out in Attachment D4.

Step 7: Documenting the resolution

The NWJSA Grievance Officer will record the complaint, the steps taken to resolve it and the outcome. This information will be stored in a confidential and secure place. If the complaint was dealt with at the state/district level, the information will be stored by the state association. If the

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matter is of a serious nature, or if it was dealt with at the national level, the information will be stored by NWJSA and a copy stored by the state association.

Approaching external organisations

If you feel that you have been harassed or discriminated against, you can seek advice from the equal opportunity commission. There is no obligation to make a formal complaint. However, if the commission advises you that the issues appear to be within its jurisdiction, you may choose to lodge a formal complaint with the commission.

The commission may investigate your complaint. The commission may also attempt to conciliate the complaint on a confidential basis. If this fails, or if it is not appropriate, the complaint may go to a formal hearing. The tribunal will make a finding and decide what action, if any, will be taken.

The Equal Opportunity Commission can be contacted online at www.eoc.sa.gov.au/ or phone 08 8207 1977

Serious incidents, such as assault or sexual assault, should be reported to the police.

Attachment D2: MEDIATION

Mediation is a process that seeks to resolve complaints with the assistance of an impartial person – the mediator.

The mediator does not decide who is right or wrong and does not tell either side what they must do. Instead, he or she helps those involved to discuss the issues and seeks to facilitate a mutually agreeable solution.

Our approach to mediation follows the steps set out below.

1. The NWJSA Grievance Officer will appoint an appropriate mediator to help resolve the complaint. This will be done under the direction of NWJSA and in consultation with the complainant and the respondent(s). The mediator will be an independent person in the context of the complaint, however this does not preclude a person with an association with NWJSA acting as mediator.
2. The mediator will talk with the complainant and respondent(s) about how the mediation will take place and who will participate. At a minimum, the mediator will prepare an agenda of issues to be discussed.
3. All issues raised during mediation will be treated confidentially. We also respect the rights of the complainant and the respondent(s) to pursue an alternative process if the complaint is not resolved.
4. If the complaint is resolved by mediation, where appropriate the mediator may seek to ensure the parties execute a document that sets out the agreement that has been reached. This agreement will be signed by the complainant and the respondent(s). We expect the parties involved to respect and comply with the terms of the agreement.
5. If the complaint is not resolved by mediation, the complainant may:
 - write to NWJSA Grievance Officer to request that the NWJSA Grievance Officer reconsider the complaint; and
 - approach any relevant external agency, such as an anti-discrimination or equal opportunity commission, to resolve the matter.

We recognise that there are some **situations where mediation may not be appropriate**, including:

- when the people involved have completely different versions of the incident;
- when one or both parties are unwilling to attempt mediation;
- when there is a real or perceived power imbalance between the people involved;
- matters that involve serious allegations.

Mediation Services

- In some circumstances NWJSA may choose to engage **The State Sport Dispute Centre**, based at Sport SA, to provide independent mediation

Attachment D3: INVESTIGATION PROCESS

There will be times when a complaint will need to be investigated and information gathered.

An investigation helps determine the facts relating to the incident, if requested, recommendations as to possible findings and next steps.

Any investigation we conduct will be fair to all people involved. The investigation process will be undertaken by an unbiased person.

If we decide that a complaint should be investigated, we will follow the steps outlined below.

1. We will provide a written brief to the investigator that sets out the terms of engagement and his or her roles and responsibilities.
2. The investigator may:
 - interview the complainant and record the interview in writing;
 - provide full details of the complaint to the respondent(s) so that they can respond
 - interview the respondent(s) to allow them to answer the complaint and record the interview in writing;
 - obtain statements from witnesses and collect other relevant evidence;
 - make a finding as to whether the complaint is:
 - substantiated (there is sufficient evidence to support the complaint)
 - inconclusive (there is insufficient evidence either way);
 - unsubstantiated (there is sufficient evidence to show that the complaint is unfounded);
 - mischievous, vexatious or knowingly untrue.
 - provide a report to NWJSA documenting the complaint, the investigation process, the evidence,) and, if requested, any findings and recommendations.
3. We will provide a report to the complainant and the respondent(s) documenting the complaint, the investigation process and summarising key points from the investigation.

4. The complainant and the respondent(s) will be entitled to support throughout this process from their chosen support person or adviser.

Attachment D4: TRIBUNAL PROCEDURES

We will follow the steps set out below to hear formal complaints made under our Member Protection Policy.

Preparing for a Tribunal hearing

1. A Tribunal panel will be established, according to the rules set out in our constituent documents, rules and by-laws, to hear a complaint that has been referred to it by NWJSA Grievance Officer.
2. The number of Tribunal panel members required to be present throughout the hearing will be 3 persons. The Tribunal panel members will be provided with a copy of all the relevant correspondence, reports or information received and sent by NWJSA Grievance Officer relating to the complaint/allegations.
3. The Tribunal hearing will be held as soon as practicable. However, adequate time must be provided for the respondent(s) to prepare for the hearing.
4. The NWJSA Grievance Officer will inform the respondent(s) in writing that a Tribunal hearing will take place. The notice will outline:
 - that the person has a right to appear at the Tribunal hearing to defend the complaint/allegations;
 - the details of the complaint and of all allegations, as well as the provision or clause of any policy, rule or regulation that has allegedly been breached;
 - the date, time and venue of the Tribunal hearing;
 - that verbal and/or written submissions can be presented at the Tribunal hearing;
 - that witnesses may attend the Tribunal hearing to support the position of the respondent/s;
 - an outline of any possible sanctions that may be imposed if the complaint is found to be true;
 - That legal representation will not be allowed. [The respondent may be assisted by a support person at a Tribunal hearing. For example, where the respondent is a minor, he or she should have a parent or guardian present. However a person cannot be a support person if he or she has been admitted to the practice as a lawyer or worked as a trainee lawyer.] A copy of any investigation report findings will be provided to the respondent(s).
5. The NWJSA Grievance Officer will notify the complainant in writing that a Tribunal hearing will take place. The notice will outline:
 - that the person has a right to appear at the Tribunal hearing to support their complaint;
 - the details of the complaint, including any relevant rules or regulations the respondent is accused of breaching;
 - the date, time and venue of the Tribunal hearing;
 - that verbal and/or written submissions can be presented at the Tribunal hearing;
 - that witnesses may attend the Tribunal hearing to support the complainant's position;

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- that legal representation will not be allowed. The respondent may be assisted by a support person at a Tribunal hearing. For example, where the respondent is a minor, he or she should have a parent or guardian present. However, a person cannot be a support person if he or she has been admitted to practice as a lawyer or worked as a trainee lawyer.

A copy of the investigation report findings will be provided to the complainant.

6. If the complainant believes the details of the complaint are incorrect or insufficient, he or she should inform the NWJSA Grievance Officer as soon as possible so that the respondent(s) and members of the Tribunal panel can be properly informed of the complaint.
7. If possible, the Tribunal panel should include at least one person with knowledge or experience of the relevant laws/rules (e.g. anti-discrimination).

Tribunal hearing procedure

8. The following people will be allowed to attend the Tribunal hearing:
 - Tribunal panel members;
 - the respondent(s);
 - the complainant;
 - any witnesses called by the respondent(s);
 - any witnesses called by the complainant;
 - any parent/guardian or support person required to support the respondent or the complainant.
9. If the respondent(s) is not present at the set hearing time and the Tribunal chairperson considers that no valid reason has been presented for this absence, the Tribunal hearing will continue subject to the chairperson being satisfied that all Tribunal notification requirements have been met.
10. If the Tribunal chairperson considers that there is a valid reason for the non-attendance of the respondent(s), or the chairperson does not believe the Tribunal notification requirements have been met, then the Tribunal hearing will be rescheduled to a later date.
11. If the Tribunal chairperson wishes to reschedule the Tribunal hearing date, the Tribunal chairperson will inform the NWJSA Grievance Officer of the need to reschedule the hearing and the NWJSA Grievance Officer will arrange for the Tribunal to be reconvened.
12. The Tribunal chairperson will read out the complaint, ask each respondent if he or she understands the complaint and if he or she agrees or disagrees with the complaint.
13. If the respondent agrees with the complaint, he or she will be asked to provide any evidence or witnesses that should be considered by the Tribunal when determining any sanctions.
14. If the respondent disagrees with the complaint, the complainant will be asked to describe the circumstances that lead to the complaint being made.
 - Reference may be made to brief notes.
 - The complainant may call witnesses.
 - The respondent may question the complainant and any witnesses.
15. The respondent will then be asked to respond to the complaint.
 - Reference may be made to brief notes.

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- The respondent may call witnesses.
 - The complainant may ask questions of the respondent and any witnesses.
16. The complainant and respondent(s) may be present when evidence is presented to the Tribunal hearing. Witnesses may be asked to wait outside the hearing until they are required.
17. The Tribunal may:
- consider any evidence, and in any form, that it deems relevant;
 - ask questions of any person giving evidence;
 - limit the number of witnesses (including limiting witnesses to those persons who only provide new evidence);
 - require (to the extent it has power to do so) the attendance of any witness it deems relevant; and
 - act in an inquisitorial manner in order to establish the truth of the issue/complaint before it.
18. Video evidence, if available, may be presented. Arrangements for the viewing of this evidence must be made entirely by the person(s) wishing to offer this type of evidence.
19. If the Tribunal panel considers that at any time during the hearing there is any unreasonable or intimidatory behaviour from anyone, the Tribunal chairperson may deny further involvement of that person in the hearing.
20. After all the evidence has been presented, the Tribunal will make its decision in private. The Tribunal must decide whether the complaint has, on the balance of probabilities, been substantiated.
21. All Tribunal decisions will be by majority vote.
22. The Tribunal chairperson may announce the decision of the Tribunal at the conclusion of the hearing. Alternatively, he or she may reserve the decision of the Tribunal at the conclusion of the hearing and deliver the decision at a later time.
23. The respondent(s) will have the opportunity to make submissions to the Tribunal in relation to any sanctions that may be imposed.
24. Within 48 hours of the Tribunal delivering its decision, the Tribunal chairperson will:
- forward a notice of the Tribunal's decision to the NWJSA Grievance Officer including details of any sanction imposed.
 - forward a letter reconfirming the Tribunal's decision to the respondent(s), including any sanction imposed. The letter should also outline the process and grounds for an appeal, if allowed.
25. The Tribunal does not need to provide written reasons for its decision.

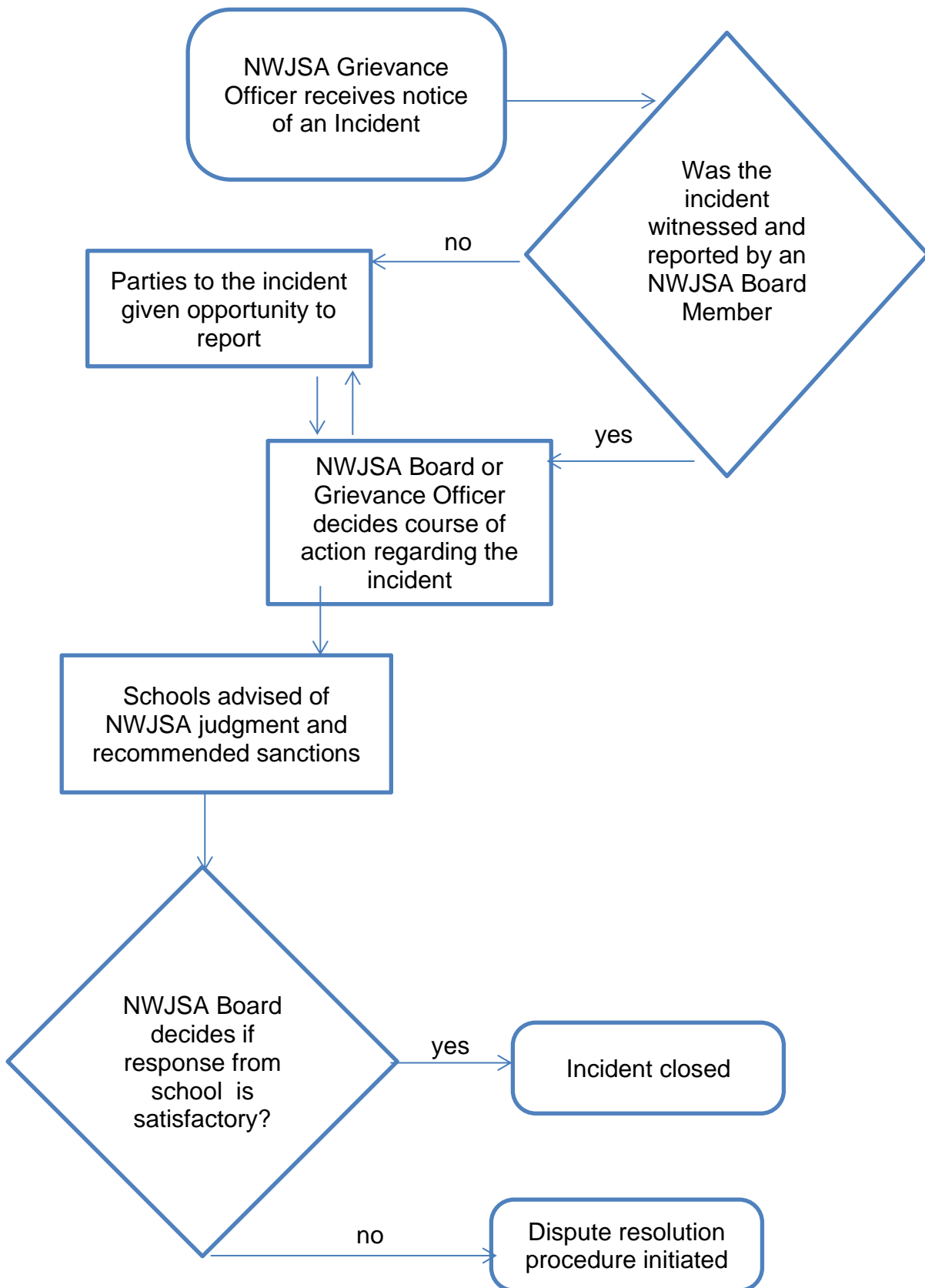
Appeals procedure

27. A complainant or a respondent(s) may lodge with NWJSA an appeal in relation to the decision of a Tribunal on one or more of the following grounds:
- a) Policy was not properly followed or implemented;
 - b) Disciplinary measure(s) imposed is unjust and/or unreasonable;
 - c) Determination was affected by bias.

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28. A person wanting to appeal must lodge a letter setting out the basis for their appeal with the NWJSA Grievance Officer within 7 days of the decision being made.
29. If the letter of appeal is not received by the NWJSA Grievance Officer within this time, the right of appeal will lapse.
30. The letter of appeal and the notice of the Tribunal's decision will be forwarded to the State Sports Dispute Centre to review and to decide whether there are sufficient grounds for the appeal to proceed. The State Sports Dispute Centre may invite any witnesses to the meeting that he or she believes are required to make an informed decision.
31. If the appellant has not shown sufficient grounds for an appeal in accordance with clause 27, then the appeal will be rejected. The appellant will be notified in writing, including the reasons for the decision.
32. If the appeal is accepted, an Appeal Tribunal with new panel members will be convened to rehear the complaint,
33. The Tribunal hearing procedure shall be followed for the Appeal Tribunal.
34. The decision of the Appeal Tribunal will be final and binding.

**Attachment D5:
NWJSA Grievance Flow Chart**



PART E: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND DOCUMENTS/FORMS

We will ensure that all the complaints we receive, both formal and informal, are properly documented. This includes recording how the complaint was resolved and the outcome of the complaint.

This information, and any additional records and notes, will be treated confidentially (subject to disclosure required by law or permitted under this policy) and stored in a secure place.

We will treat any allegation of harm or risk of harm to a child or young person promptly, seriously and with a high degree of sensitivity.

We will ensure that everyone who works with our organisation in a paid or unpaid capacity understands how to appropriately receive and record allegations of harm or risk of harm to a child or young person and how to report those allegations to the relevant authorities in their state or territory.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment E1: Record of informal complaint
- Attachment E2: Record of formal complaint
- Attachment E3: Reporting harm or risk of harm to a child or young person

Attachment E1:
RECORD OF INFORMAL COMPLAINT

Name of person receiving complaint		Date: / /
Complainant's Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18	
Role/status	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Official 	
When/where did the incident take place?		
What are the facts relating to the incident, as stated by complainant?		

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What is the nature of the complaint? (category/basis/grounds) Tick more than one box if necessary	<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Harassment</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Coaching methods</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Sexual/sexist</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Selection dispute</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Personality clash</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Race</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Bullying</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Victimization</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Religion</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Disability</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Unfair decision</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Harm to child</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Other</div> </div>
What does the complainant want to happen to resolve the issue?	
What other information has the complainant provided?	
What is the complainant going to do now?	

This record and any notes must be kept confidential and secure. If the issue becomes a formal complaint, this record is to be given to the NWJSA Chairman.

Attachment E2: RECORD OF FORMAL COMPLAINT

Complainant's Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18	Date Formal Complaint Received: / /
Complainant's contact details	Phone: Email:	
Complainant's role/position	<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer)</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Parent</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Spectator</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid)</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Other</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Official</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/></div> </div>	
Name of person complained about (respondent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18	
Respondent's role/position	<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer)</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Parent</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Spectator</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid)</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Other</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Official</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/></div> </div>	
Location/event of alleged incident		

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Description of alleged incident	
Nature of complaint (category/basis/grounds) Tick more than one box if necessary	<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Harassment</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Coaching methods</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Sexual/sexist</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Selection dispute</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Personality clash</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Race</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Bullying</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Victimisation</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Religion</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Disability</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Unfair decision</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Harm to child</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Other</div> </div>
Methods (if any) of attempted informal resolution	
Formal resolution procedures followed (outline)	
If investigated:	Finding <div style="height: 60px;"></div>
If heard by Tribunal:	Decision <div style="height: 60px;"></div> Action recommended <div style="height: 60px;"></div>
If mediated:	Date of mediation: Both/all parties present Agreement Any other action taken

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If decision was appealed	Decision Action recommended
Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 3 months to resolve <input type="checkbox"/> Between 3 – 8 months to resolve <input type="checkbox"/> More than 8 months to resolve
Completed by	Name: Position: Signature: _____ Date / /
Signed by:	Complainant: Respondent:

This record and any notes must be kept confidential and secure. If the complaint is of a serious nature, the original record must be kept with the organisation where the complaint was first made.

Attachment E3:
CONFIDENTIAL RECORD OF ALLEGATION RE HARM OR RISK OF HARM TO A CHILD
OR YOUNG PERSON

Before completing, ensure the procedures outlined in attachment E3 have been followed and advice has been sought from the relevant government agency and/or police.

Complainant's Name (if other than the child)		Date Formal Complaint Received: / /
Role/status in sport		
Child's name		Age:
Child's address		
Person's reason for suspecting abuse (e.g. observation, injury, disclosure)		
Name of person complained about		
Role/status in sport	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Official	

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<p>Witnesses (if more than 3 witnesses, attach details to this form)</p>	<p>Name (1): Contact details: Name (2): Contact details: Name (3): Contact details:</p>
<p>Interim action (if any) taken (to ensure child's safety and/or to support needs of person complained about)</p>	
<p>Police contacted</p>	<p>Who: When: Advice provided:</p>
<p>Government agency contacted</p>	<p>Who: When: Advice provided:</p>
<p>CEO contacted</p>	<p>Who: When:</p>
<p>Police and/or government agency investigation</p>	<p>Finding:</p>
<p>Internal investigation (if any)</p>	<p>Finding:</p>
<p>Action taken</p>	
<p>Completed by</p>	<p>Name: Position: Signature: / /</p>
<p>Signed by</p>	<p>Complainant (if not a child)</p>

This record and any notes must be kept in a confidential and safe place and provided to the relevant authorities (police and government) should they require them.

PART F: CHILD SAFEGUARDING AND VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT PROCEDURES

We will require our Member Schools to adhere to their own Child Safeguarding and Volunteer Engagement procedures.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment F1
DECD Schools:
[Volunteer Policy](#) reviewed July 2023
- Attachment F2
Catholic Education South Australia Schools:
Procedure for Engaging and Inducting Volunteers October 2022
- Attachment F3
Independent Schools:
Child Protection Guidelines 2016

These attachments can be found at www.nwjsa.org.au