

Banyule Basketball Club

Child safety guideline for coaches

Introduction:

As a coach, you have a duty of care to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all young players in your care. The Child Safe Standards were introduced in Victoria on 1 July 2022 to ensure that children's safety is a top priority in all organizations that work with children. The Banyule Hawks Basketball Club (**BHBC**) must comply with these standards to provide a safe and secure environment for the children that we coach. This guideline will help you understand the Child Safe Standards and how you can implement them as a coach of the Banyule Hawks Basketball Club.

Guidelines:

1. Create a Child Safe Environment:

As a coach, you must create a safe and secure environment for the children in your care. Ensure that you have clear boundaries, and children understand what behaviours are acceptable and what is not. Set up the environment in a way that minimizes risk (e.g., no unsupervised access to facilities, an open-door policy for meetings, and communication with parents and carers).

2. Plan and implement safety and inclusion protocols:

You must have safety and inclusion protocols in place to ensure that children are safe and feel supported. Ensure that you have a clear process for registering children and identifying any risks, such as allergies or medical conditions. Identify any potential risks in your coaching and develop strategies to minimize and respond to them.

3. Communicate and encourage transparent communication:

You must encourage transparent communication with children, parents/carers, and other coaches to help maintain a safe environment. Ensure that you inform parents about club policies and procedures, and provide them with clear channels of communication to report concerns. Encourage parents to speak up and report any issues the moment they arise.

4. Training, education, and support for coaches:

You should have ongoing training, education, and support for coaches to promote child safety. Make sure you have the necessary skills to identify and respond to child safety concerns appropriately.

5. Reporting and responding to allegations of child abuse:

You must ensure that you respond appropriately to allegations or concerns regarding child abuse. Report any suspected child abuse to the club's designated child safety contact, who will have the responsibility for contacting the relevant authorities.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, as a coach of the BHBC, you must follow the Child Safe Standards to ensure that you provide a safe and secure environment for the children that you coach.

Implementing these guidelines will help you meet the standards and ensure that the BHBC has a child-safe culture. Remember that everyone's cooperation is essential in maintaining a safe environment for our young players.