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| **Policy Name** | Child Safety Policy |
| **Policy Number** |  |
| **Policy Group** |  |
| **Version** | 1 |
| **Status** | Ratified |
| **Date** | 30 May 2019 |
| **Due for review/revision** | 30 May 2022 |
| **Owner** | Executive Committee |

# Policy

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| **Objectives** | The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people accessing, or associated with Mount Eliza Soccer Club. |
| **Context and scope** | The Child Safety policy fulfils Mount Eliza Soccer Club’s obligations under State legislation concerning Mandatory reporting of Child Abuse.  The recent changes to The Victorian Child Safe Standards aim to drive cultural change in organisations so that protecting children from abuse is embedded in the everyday thinking and practice of leaders, staff and volunteers.  This policy will assist the organisation to;   * Prevent child abuse * Encourage reporting of any abuse that does occur * Improve responses to any allegations of child abuse |
| **Definitions** | For the purposes of this policy:  **Child means a person who is under 18 years of age.** |
| **Policy statement** | Mount Eliza Soccer Club supports the rights of the child and will act without hesitation to ensure child safety is maintained at all times.  **We have zero tolerance of child abuse** and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and consistently with our policies and procedures.  Mount Eliza Soccer Club is committed to:   * Protecting children from physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse and neglect, as well as promoting their health and wellbeing. * Being a child safe organisation, where children and young people feel respected, safe and valued, and are encouraged to reach their full potential. * Promoting diversity and tolerance in our organisation, in particular we promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children, children from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children who identify as LGBTI or are gender questioning and children with a disability. * Employees, Coaches and Volunteers attend ChildSafe training and development programs to help identify, assess, and minimise risks of child abuse and to detect potential signs of child abuse and how to respond.   To ensure children are protected from physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse and neglect when accessing Mount Eliza Soccer Club, the Club will have procedures to ensure that:   * All Employees, Coaches and Volunteers will have:   + Reference checks prior to appointment as an employee   + Child-screening checks as per the relevant state-based requirements   + Abide by our Code of Conduct which specifies the standard of conduct required when working with children and how to behave with children in the organisation. * On a case by case basis Employees, Coaches and Volunteers may be asked to complete a national police check * Any suspected incident or allegation of a child being subject too physical, sexual, emotional or psychological abuse or neglect will be reporting and investigated. |

# Procedures and Related Documents

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| **Procedures that relate to this policy** |  |
| **Related policies** |  |
| **Relevant legislation or standards** | Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Bill 2015 (Vic)  Crimes Amendment (Protection of Children) Act 2014 (Vic) |

# Document Change History

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| Version | Status\* | Comments | Prepared by | Ratified by | Date Ratified |
| 1 | Ratified |  | Aaron Garth | Stephen Longhurst | 30 May 2019 |