



Child Protection and Mandatory Reporting Policy

1. Purpose of this policy

The purpose of this policy is to explain the roles and responsibilities of club members to protect the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. The full policy with detailed information that all Cricket Victoria affiliated clubs must abide is available at:

http://www.cricketvictoria.com.au/files/pages/cv-member-protection-policy/CV_Member_Protection_Policy.pdf

2. Mandatory Reporting

All volunteers and club members can be considered 'mandatory reporters'.

Mandatory reporters, who form a belief on reasonable grounds that a child or young person is in need of protection from physical injury or sexual abuse, they must report their concerns to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Child Protection or, if the threat is more immediate, to Victoria Police.

In cases where volunteers or club members have concerns about a child or young person, they should also discuss their concerns with the Club President or a member of the Club Committee.

3. Failure to disclose offence

In addition to mandatory reporting and duty of care obligations, **any adult** who forms a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed by an adult against a child under 16 must report that information to police. Failure to disclose the information to police is a criminal offence except in limited circumstances, such as where the information has already been reported to Child Protection or the child is older than 16 when the belief is formed. More information about the offence can be found at <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/safer+communities/protecting+children+and+families/failure+to+disclose+offence>.

4. Duty of care

Club volunteers and members have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to protect the safety, health and wellbeing of children in their care.

If a volunteer or club member has concerns about the safety, health and wellbeing of children in their care it is important to take immediate action.

In the case of a child who may be in need of protection or therapeutic treatment, or where there are significant concerns about the wellbeing of a child, volunteers and club members can discharge this duty of care by taking action which includes the following:

- Reporting their concerns to Child Protection, Victoria Police or another appropriate agency
- Notifying the President or a Club Committee member of their concerns and the reasons for those concerns.

Duty of care obligations are separate and additional to mandatory reporting and 'failure to disclose' reporting obligations.

5. Making a report

Volunteers and club members **do not require** the permission of parents, carers or guardians to make a report to Child Protection, nor are they required to tell parents, carers or guardians that they have done so. Volunteer and club members are referred to the Cricket Victoria Member Protection Policy (link above) for details about making a report.

Reports to Child Protection and Victoria Police are confidential unless you consent or a court or tribunal decides that it is necessary in the interests of justice for your identity to be disclosed.

6. Training

The club will make all reasonable steps to inform and train relevant volunteers and club members of their requirements with regards to Child Protection and Mandatory Reporting.

7. Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as required, but at least once in a four year cycle.

