



Penguin Football Club's Policy for interacting with underage children

These guidelines are for coaches and other personnel to protect them from risk and to ensure children under the age of 18 are always in a child-safe environment when participating or playing.

The club will conduct a Risk Assessment when there are safety concerns or potential safety concerns in relation to an activity or event when interacting with children.

Examples of potential risk situations that could occur include:

- private, one-on-one coaching practices
- travel arrangements to and from competitions and training
- changing rooms/showers
- inappropriate touching during technical instruction
- excessive negative criticism, threats and bullying
- lack of adequate supervision and appropriate equipment when participating in club activities.

The club will implement all related policies and procedures relating to working with children including complying with the registration requirements for people working or volunteering with the club ie Working with Vulnerable People (Children) Registration.

Maintain appropriate boundaries

Coaches and other personnel in positions of authority should identify and maintain clear boundaries at all times. The types of boundaries that you need to maintain are listed below.

Boundaries:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Physical | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use drills to develop fitness, not as a punishment• only use physical contact that is appropriate for the development of a particular skill and has the permission of the athlete |
| Emotional | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• work within sight of others at all times• use positive feedback on performance, not negative feedback about the person |
| Social | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be encouraging and avoid put-downs• when representing the club, ensure the requirements of the following are met at all times:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Codes of Conduct- Codes of Behaviour- Social Media Policy |
| Sexual | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• never have sexual relationships with players or participants you are coaching• never touch players or participants in ways likely to make them feel uncomfortable, distressed or embarrassed |

Minimise physical contact

Physical contact with players or participants is appropriate if it is used to:

- develop a sports skill
- give a sports massage
- treat an injury
- prevent or respond to an injury or required for the players or participant's safety
- meet the specific requirements of the sport.

Always:

- ensure physical contact is appropriate for the development of a sports skill
- seek permission from the player or participant
- congratulate or comfort players or participants in public not in an isolated setting.

Physical contact is inappropriate if it:

- includes touching the groin, genital area, buttocks, breasts or any part of the body that may cause distress or embarrassment
- frightens, distresses or embarrasses a child
- destroys their trust
- occurs in a private place.

Avoid being alone with a child

To protect yourself and the child from risk:

- Do not isolate yourself and a child and avoid being alone with any child.
- If a child approaches you and wants to talk to you privately about a matter, do so in an open area and in sight of other adults (e.g. other coaches, officials or parents/guardians).
- Before going into change rooms knock or announce that you will be entering. Try to have at least one adult with you in a change room with children.

Guidelines approved

Signature: 

Name: Brian Lane

Club President

Date: 17/02/2018

Signature:  _____

Name: _____ Toby Ray

Club Secretary

Date: _____ 19/2/2018 _____