

Largs Football Club - Child Protection Policy

Version: 1.0 – 25/06/25

1. Purpose

Largs Football Club is committed to the safety, wellbeing, and protection of all children and young people involved in our Club. This policy outlines our approach to safeguarding children and promoting a safe and inclusive environment where young people can participate in football without fear of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All committee members, coaches, managers, volunteers, officials, players, parents, and spectators.
- All Club-sanctioned activities, including matches, training, social functions, and travel.

3. Guiding Principles

- Zero tolerance for any form of child abuse.
- The safety and welfare of children is the Club's highest priority.
- Children and young people have the right to be heard, respected, and valued.
- All adults involved in the Club have a responsibility to protect children from harm.

4. Responsibilities

Executive Committee

- Ensure child safety is embedded in Club culture.
- Appoint a Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO).
- Maintain compliance with relevant child safety laws and football governing bodies.

Coaches and Volunteers

- Hold valid Working with Children Checks (WWCC).
- Understand and adhere to this policy and relevant codes of conduct.
- Report any concerns or disclosures immediately.

Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO)

- Be the first point of contact for child protection concerns.
- Provide advice and support to Club members on child safety issues.
- Liaise with governing bodies and authorities when necessary.

5. Child Safety Practices

LFC will implement and uphold the following practices:

- Screening and background checks for all volunteers and staff working with children.
- Mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect to relevant authorities.
- Encouraging open communication with children and creating safe avenues for them to

report concerns.

- Providing education and training on child protection for committee members, coaches, and volunteers.
- Ensuring all Club activities are supervised and that no adult is ever alone with a child unless unavoidable.

6. Code of Conduct

All members must adhere to the LFC Code of Conduct, which includes:

- Treating all children with respect and fairness.
- Avoiding any behaviour that could be interpreted as abusive, exploitative, or inappropriate.
- Never using physical punishment, humiliation, or intimidation.

7. Reporting Concerns

Concerns, complaints, or disclosures relating to child safety must be reported to:

- The Club's MPIO, or
- Hunter Valley Football / Northern NSW Football Member Protection Officers, or
- NSW Police or the Department of Communities and Justice (Child Protection Helpline: 132 111)

LFC will support any person who, in good faith, reports a concern.

8. Confidentiality

All reports and concerns will be handled with discretion. The identity of individuals involved will be protected to the extent possible, and only disclosed when legally required or necessary for investigation.

9. Breach of Policy

Breaches of this policy will result in disciplinary action, which may include:

- Suspension or termination of membership or role
- Referral to authorities for investigation

10. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or as required in response to changes in legislation, Club needs, or child protection standards.

Approved by:

Largs Football Club Executive Committee

Date: 25 June 2025

