

Sandbelt Bowls Region Inc

Child Safety Statement and

Complaints Process 2023/24

Child Safety

Sandbelt Bowls Region is committed to promoting and protecting the interests and safety of all children and young people and has zero tolerance for child abuse which includes anything that compromises the health and well-being of children.

Sandbelt Bowls Region endorse and operate under the National Integrity Framework: Bowls Australia Child Safeguarding Policy and the 11 Child Safe Standards as set by the Victorian Government, including Child Safe Standard 1 – Relevant entities establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.

Child Safety Complaints Process

Regarding children and young persons in the care of a Sandbelt Bowls Region Representative:

1. If a person is concerned about an immediate risk to a child's safety, the person must phone Victoria Police on "000" as soon as practicable.
2. If a person is uncertain as to whether they should make a report to an external authority in relation to the safety of a child, they may speak to the Sandbelt Bowls Region President Debbie Johnstone on 0437480775 or the Sandbelt Bowls Region Secretary Kerry Disney on 0416161876 for guidance and information. If in doubt, ask for assistance.
3. Any person that makes a report in good faith will be supported by the Sandbelt Bowls Region, and will not be penalised for making the report.
4. If an allegation of inappropriate conduct against a child is made, Sandbelt Bowls Region will follow the reporting procedure outlined in the VICSPORT Guide to Responding to and Reporting Child Safe Concerns and take all steps to ensure that the safety of the child and other children is paramount.
5. Sandbelt Bowls Region will investigate allegations of inappropriate conduct against a child in accordance with procedural fairness and will handle the allegations in a confidential and sensitive manner to the greatest extent possible.
6. Sandbelt Bowls Region will cooperate with the directions of the Police, the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) and/or the Department of Family, Fairness & Housing (DFFH) in relation to any investigation conducted by these authorities.
7. Sandbelt Bowls Region will keep a register of any allegations regarding inappropriate conduct.