



LANG LANG UNITED SOCCER CLUB

CHILD SAFE POLICY

## **Purpose**

This policy has been written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the Committee, coaches and volunteers of the Lang Lang United Soccer Club (the Club) to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and practices the Club has developed to keep everyone safe from any harm, including abuse.

## **Commitment to Child Safety**

All Children that are part of the Club have a right to feel and be safe. The welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority and the Club has a zero-tolerance approach to any form of child endangerment. The Club aims to create a child safe and friendly environment where Children feel safe, protected and free to have fun in Club activities, which are always carried out in the best interests of the Children.

## **Application of this Policy**

This policy was developed by the Club, in conjunction with Football Victoria, and applies to all individuals involved in our organisation, including but not limited to:

- Committee Members
- Coaches
- Officials
- Participants
- Parents
- Spectators

All of the people to which this policy applies have a role and responsibility in relation to child protection. They must all:

- Understand the indicators and risks of child abuse.
- Appropriately act on any concerns raised by children.
- Understand and follow all applicable laws in relation to the protection of children and reporting or management of any child safety concerns.

## **Child Abuse**

Child abuse can take a broad range of forms including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse and neglect. People to whom this policy applies need to be aware that child abuse can occur whenever there is actual or potential harm to a child, and these are circumstances that the Club is committed to reducing the risk of occurrence.

## **Children's Rights to Safety and Participation**

The Club encourages children to express their views about their safety. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all children who use our services to “have a say” about things that are important to them.

We teach children about what they can do if they feel unsafe and listen and act on any concerns children, or their parents, raise with us.

We have a Club Child Safety Officer on our Committee, Ellen Boundy and any parent, or child, member or non-member can reach out via email at [lluscchilfsafety@gmail.com](mailto:lluscchilfsafety@gmail.com)

## **Valuing Diversity**

- We value diversity and do not tolerate any form of discriminatory practices. To achieve this, we:
- Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children and their families.
- Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and their families.
- Welcome children with a disability and their families and act to promote their participation.
- Welcome children and their families that seek safety and inclusion.

## **Recruitment of Coaches and Volunteers**

The Club takes the following steps to ensure best practice standards in the recruitment and screening of Club members and volunteers:

- Require Working with Children Checks for all coaches and those that may need to supervise children.  
Our commitment to child safety and our screening requirements are all included in all advertisements and as part of any induction process for new coaches and volunteers.

## **Supporting Coaches and Volunteers**

The Club seeks to attract and retain the best volunteers. We provide support and supervision, so people feel valued, respected, and fairly treated. We have developed a Code of Conduct to provide guidance to our members and volunteers.

## **Reporting a Child Safety Concern or Complaint**

The club has appointed Ellen Boundy as Child Safety Officer with the specific responsibility of responding to any issues, concerns or complaints made by coaches, volunteers, parents or children. Contact can be made in writing to [lluscchidsafety@gmail.com](mailto:lluscchidsafety@gmail.com)

The Child Safety Officer will:

- Provide support to the child, parent/carer, person who made the report.
- Clarify the nature of the complaint and refer in accordance with legal requirement and duty of care, to Police or Child Protection
- Initiate processes to ensure the safety of the child, and other children.
- If necessary, make the report as soon as possible or support the complainant in making the report as soon as possible.
- The Child Safety Officer may also provide support to the accused if they are a club volunteer, coach or committee member.
- Work with the appropriate Committee members, club officials, and/or league officials regarding behaviour and/or disciplinary action, if not found to be a Child Protection or Police matter
- Review Club policies and practices to minimise the risk of future similar events/behaviour.

## **Risk Management**

We recognise the importance of a risk management approach to minimising the potential for child abuse or harm to occur and use this to inform our policy, procedures and activity planning. In addition to general occupational health and safety risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse to our children. To reduce the risk of child abuse occurring, adults to whom this policy applies should avoid direct, unsupervised contact with children. For example, this should be a consideration when:

- Using change room facilities
- Travel
- Physical contact when coaching or managing children.

## **Reviewing this Policy**

This policy will be reviewed every two years, and we undertake to seek views, comments and suggestions from children, parents, carers, coaches and volunteers involved with the Club. This policy will remain in effect until a replacement is issued.