



Child Safety – Code of Conduct

Purpose

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to promote child safety within the Club environments. Any form of abusive, derogatory, discriminatory, offensive or intimidating behaviour or language by adults towards minors, or minors towards other minors, is not acceptable.

Any action that may be hurtful or risk being interpreted by a reasonable observer as grooming behaviour is unacceptable. Comments or actions that are negatively and unreasonably critical of a person's culture, ethnicity, language, gender identity, disability, sexuality or age, are unacceptable.

Committee members, volunteers, contractors, coaches, managers, players and parents/guardians of players at the Club are bound by, and required to abide to, this Code.

Code of Conduct

SMSC want children to feel safe, included, encouraged and supported – essentially, to enjoy themselves so that they keep participating. To make sure that we create this environment, SMSC's Code of Conduct for dealing with players requires everyone involved in SMSC to abide by certain behavioural standards when it comes to dealing with children. This table summarises those requirements. All behaviour towards players should consider the needs and safety of:

- indigenous children;
- children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; and
- children with a disability.

	Code of Behaviour Requirement for dealing with Children
1	Language and Tone of Voice: a) Should provide clear direction, encourage and affirm children and boost their confidence. b) Should NOT be harmful – i.e., derogatory (e.g. “you’re a loser), threatening, frightening, profane, discriminatory, racist, sexual.
2	Adhering to professional role boundaries: a) Act only within the confines of your duties/role (e.g., if you’re a coach, just be a coach). b) Unless with <u>expressed consent</u> from a nominated Committee Member of SMSC or the Parent/Guardian, do NOT: i. Provide unauthorised transportation to a child ii. Engage in activities or seek contact with a child outside of SMSC. iii. Involve yourself in the child’s private and/or family matters, <u>unless you reasonably believe or suspect that they are at risk of harm</u> . iv. Provide support to children or their families that is unrelated to Futsal.

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	<p>v. Accept an invitation to attend any private social function at the request of the child or their family/carer (current or past) unless there was an existing social, personal or family relationship.</p> <p>If any of the above occur or you are made aware of a child requiring assistance outside the confines of your role, either contact their parent/guardian or seek advice from a SMSC Committee member.</p>
3	<p>Sending electronic communications to Children (emails, texts and other direct messages):</p> <p>a) <u>Must copy parent(s)/guardian(s)</u> into any text, email, Facebook or any other form of electronic communication message.</p> <p>b) <u>Must only communicate with children regarding issues relevant to SMSC.</u></p> <p>c) Ensure that any messages are polite/friendly and in no way sexual in nature.</p> <p>d) <u>Must not</u> communicate with the child, request to be “friends” or “follow” the child using Internet chat rooms, social networking sites, game sites, instant messaging or anything of a similar nature, particularly to encourage social contact of an unauthorised nature.</p> <p>e) <u>Must not</u> request that the child keeps communication a secret.</p>
4	<p>Supervision of children - When supervising children in Futsal:</p> <p>a) Avoid unsupervised situations with a child wherever possible - you should always be in view of others.</p> <p>b) Engage positively with our sport.</p> <p>c) Behave appropriately towards one another.</p> <p>d) Ensure that you are in a safe environment, protected from external threats.</p>
5	<p>Physical Contact with a child – must be appropriate to delivery of our sport and based on the needs of the child (i.e. to comfort if distressed). Unless for medical or allied health purposes by a health care professional, contact must not:</p> <p>a) Involve touching genitals, breasts or buttocks.</p> <p>b) Appear to have a sexual connotation.</p> <p>c) Be intended to cause pain or distress.</p> <p>d) Be overly physical (e.g., wrestling, tickling, etc).</p> <p>e) Be unnecessary (e.g., assisting a child with toileting when they don’t need help).</p> <p>f) Be initiated against the wishes of child (unless to prevent injury, in which case physical restraint should be a last resort).</p> <p>Physical contact initiated by a child that is sexual and/or inappropriate behaviour between children must be reported to a SMSC Child Safety Officer.</p>
6	<p>Sexual Misconduct:</p> <p>No form of “sexual behaviour” is to occur between, with or in the presence of a child in Futsal, even if the child is above the legal age of consent – 16 years. This includes contact and non-contact behaviour (e.g., flirting, sexual innuendo, electronic messaging, or photography).</p>

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7	<p>Positive Guidance and Discipline:</p> <p>We want to create a positive environment for everyone within the SMSC community, understanding that children need to understand the acceptable limits of their behaviour, whilst ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We give children clear direction. b) Children are given an opportunity to redirect their misbehaviour in a positive way. c) Behaviour management strategies are fair, respectful, and appropriate to children’s developmental stage. d) No physical punishment, cruel/degrading/humiliating, etc treatment is used. <p>Under no circumstances is physical punishment to be used, nor any other treatment that could be considered as degrading, cruel, frightening, humiliating or discriminatory.</p>
8	<p>Giving gifts to Children: Must always be authorised by parents/guardians.</p>
9	<p>Photographs/video footage of Children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Parents/Guardians provide permission to the Club at each registration for approval of photography, unless otherwise advised. b) You may only take photographs or video footage of Children involved in Futsal if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. prior approval has granted by their parent(s)/guardian(s); and ii. the context of the photo/footage is directly related to Futsal iii. Children are appropriately dressed and posed; and iv. the image/footage is taken in presence of others involved in Futsal. c) In the absence of permission noted in a) images must not be exhibited online by SMSC unless children are de-identified
10	<p>SMSC Related Overnight Stays and Sleeping Arrangements for Children:</p> <p>Overnight stays are to only occur with the prior written authorisation of parents/guardians and the relevant SMSC Committee (or their nominated representative).</p>
11	<p>Change Room arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Avoid one-to-one unsupervised situations with children in a change room area (other than with their own child), whilst ensuring adequate supervision to keep children safe (e.g., standing outside the entrance to the change room). b) Not dress/undress in the change room whilst children are present, unless they are playing in a Senior Team and there are other members of the team present. Ensure that photos, video or other recordings are not taken in change rooms. c) Ensure that participants use the change room of their affirmed gender.
12	<p>Use, possession or supply of alcohol or drugs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) All persons involved in SMSC who are delivering a program involving children must not use, possess or be under the influence of illegal or illicit drugs, alcohol or be incapacitated by any other legal drug.

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	(b) Legal (i.e., prescription) drugs are permitted to be used provided that they do not interfere with your ability to provide an appropriate level of care to children in SMSC and that you do not supply legal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco) to children.
13	<p>Transporting children:</p> <p>(a) Children can only be transported by others in circumstances that are directly related to the delivery of SMSC events, with prior approval of the child's parent/guardian.</p> <p>(b) Where arrangements have not been made in advance, a Committee member will contact the parent/guardian to seek approval for transport. The parent/guardian should send approval via text/electronic message. This should then be documented appropriately.</p> <p>(c) If it is not possible to get prior consent or approval, the person providing the transport must notify in writing the details of the travel to an SMSC Committee member as soon as possible after the journey. The parent/guardian of the child must also send their approval and acknowledge the child has arrived safely. This should then be documented appropriately.</p>
14	<p>Pick up and collection of Children: The Committee and Officials must:</p> <p>(a) Ensure that children and their parents/guardians know the times/locations of training/matches and that they arrive before the scheduled times so that children aren't unattended.</p> <p>(b) Have an operational phone and register of parent/guardian emergency contact details.</p> <p>(c) Ensure they are aware of pick-up details for children and that all relevant approvals are given.</p> <p>(d) If a parent/guardian is late, make efforts to contact them, noting that it is not your responsibility to drive children. You should also ask the second last child and their parent/guardian to wait until the final child is collected.</p> <p>(e) Not leave the training session or match until all children have been collected.</p> <p>(f) If necessary, ask the parent/guardian to collect their children(s) from the Futsal stadium if there are others present and arrangements are documented.</p> <p>(g) If a parent/guardian is repeatedly late to collect their children(s), notify the SMSC Committee.</p>