



Croquet Victoria

CHILD SAFE CODE OF CONDUCT

Our Child Safe Code of Conduct sets out how adults are expected to behave with children and young people in our sport – anyone aged under 18.

Everyone involved in croquet in Croquet Victoria needs to follow the Child Safe Code of Conduct. This includes volunteers, staff, contractors, service providers, croquet players, croquet officials such as referees and coaches and any other adults involved in child-connected activities in croquet.

SUMMARY

In croquet, everyone involved in activities connected with children and young people is responsible for supporting and promoting the safety of children.

We must:

- Uphold policy
- Communicate respectfully
- Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children and young people with particular needs
- Avoid potentially problematic situations
- Be careful when taking videos or photography
- Deal promptly, constructively and sympathetically with any allegations related to child safety or child abuse

We must not:

- Discipline children or young people inappropriately
- Engage with children and young people inappropriately
- Ignore inappropriate behaviour by others.

Acceptable behaviours

What we must do

In croquet, everyone involved in activities connected with children and young people is responsible for supporting and promoting the safety of children.

WE MUST:

- **Uphold policy**
 - Follow through on our commitment to child safety at all times
 - Adhere to Croquet Victoria's Child Safe Policy and Croquet Australia's Child Safeguarding policy

- **Communicate respectfully, for example**
 - Treat children, young people and families who connect with the croquet community with respect, and ensure children and young people are treated fairly at all times.
 - Provide clear easy to understand directions, be positive, encourage and affirm children and young people and boost their confidence.
 - Respond to and redirect any misbehaviour in a positive way.
 - Listen and respond to the views and concerns of children and young people, particularly if they disclose that they or someone else has been abused or if they are worried about their safety or the safety of another child or young person

- **Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children and young people with particular needs, including:**
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people
 - Children and young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
 - Children and young people with diverse genders, sexualities, and sex characteristics
 - Children and young people with a disability.

- **Avoid potentially problematic situations - for example**
 - Ensure you are in view of others when you are with a child or young person. Avoid being alone with children in a changing room or sleeping accommodation.
 - Keep to your professional role – avoid social contact (including online) outside of croquet
 - Do not provide transport unless specifically authorised (see consent form)
 - Only message children and young people about croquet-related matters
 - Ensure that all communications, including emails, texts and other messaging are copied to a responsible adult – parent or guardian.
 - Avoid physical contact.

- **Be careful when taking videos or photography. We must**
 - Get written permission in advance for videos or photography, using the permission form provided
 - Ensure photos or film are croquet related, individuals are appropriately dressed and posed, and other people are present
 - Distribute only as agreed in the permission statement
 - Unless specifically authorised, de-identify children in any online imaging

Acceptable behaviours

What we must do

- **Deal promptly, constructively and sympathetically with any allegations related to child safety or child abuse. Meaning that we must**
 - Call out any racist comments or behaviour, and report it to an appropriate senior person in croquet as soon as possible.
 - Report any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns
 - Understand and comply with all reporting and disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) in line with our child safe policy and procedures
 - If child abuse is suspected, ensure as quickly as possible that the individual/s affected are safe and protected from harm.

Unacceptable behaviours

What we must not do

As volunteers, staff, contractors, service providers, croquet players, croquet officials such as referees and coaches and any other adults involved in child-connected activities in croquet –

WE MUST NOT

- **Discipline children or young people inappropriately**
 - Under no circumstances is physical punishment to be used, nor any other treatment that could be considered as degrading, cruel, frightening, humiliating or discriminatory.
- **Engage with children and young people inappropriately. Meaning we must not:**
 - Develop a relationship with any child or young person that could be seen as favouritism or amount to 'grooming' behaviour (for example, by offering gifts)
 - Display behaviours or engage with children and young people in ways that are not justified by the croquet context – including sexual behaviour – even if the person is above the legal age of consent (16 years). This includes contact and non-contact behaviour (eg flirting, sexual innuendo, electronic messaging or photography)
 - Discuss intimate topics or use sexualised language
 - Treat a child or young person unfavourably because of their disability, age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or ethnicity
 - Communicate directly with a child or young person through personal or private contact channels (including by social media, email, instant messaging, texting etc) except where that communication is reasonable in all the circumstances, where there is a safety concern or other urgent matter
 - Consume alcohol irresponsibly or take illicit drugs in the presence of children or young people
 - Have contact with any child or young person outside the croquet context, except when parental permission has been sought.
- **Ignore inappropriate behaviour by others. We do not:**
 - Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse or harm
 - ignore an adult's overly familiar or inappropriate behaviour towards a child or young person.