South Australian Amateur Soccer League Inc

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Date Implemented	July 2026
Date Amended	
Policy to be reviewed	February 2027

1. Introduction

1.1. The South Australian Amateur Soccer League (SAASL) is committed to fostering an environment in which children and young people feel respected, valued, and encouraged to reach their full potential. A child-safe and child-friendly environment minimises the risk to children from physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological harm, and from neglect.

1.2. Football Australia (FA) provides a comprehensive Membership Protection Policy, available at: 24-0321 - Member Protection Framework - Safeguarding Policy (20260114).pdf . SAASL and all affiliated associations are required to implement this policy. The policy aims to ensure that every person involved in our sport is treated with respect and dignity and is free to participate without being discriminated against, harassed, bullied or abused.

1.3. Football South Australia's (FSA's) Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People, available at: Football SA- Child Safe Regulations - November 2025 clean_0.pdf, forms part of FSA's ongoing commitment to providing a safe and inclusive culture which safeguards participants from any form of harm or risk of harm. It recognizes new, stronger laws for people volunteering with children that have been implemented following recommendations as part of Federal and South Australian Royal Commissions into child abuse and child protection systems, to help keep children safe in our community.

1.4. This SAASL policy outlines the positions and processes to be implemented and maintained by the League, SAASL Clubs and individuals connected to SAASL competitions, to ensure and safeguard children and young people who are involved, in any way, in the SAASL environment. Through this policy SAASL, as an association affiliated with FSA, also implements the requirements of FSA's Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People.

2. Child Safe Officer (CSO)

2.1. The League and each Club must nominate at least one person to become a Child Safe Officer (CSO). For larger Clubs it may be appropriate to have more than one CSO. Club registrations will be contingent on Clubs having at least one qualified, active CSO.

2.2. The CSO will ensure compliance with child safety legislation and standards, and that participants under 18 are protected, supported and able to participate in a safe, inclusive environment. The CSO will be required to:

a. Undertake mandatory CSO training (available through Sport SA).

b. Complete and meet all requirements of the FSA Child Safety Officer (CSO) Compliance Checklist each year. Clubs will be provided with the Child Safe Officer (CSO) Compliance Checklist JotForm which must be completed and returned to SAASL for a club to be able to be registered.

2.3. The name and details of how to contact CSOs should be readily available to Club members. This could form part of the information provided during registration or on a Club's digital platforms.

3. Compliance Statement

3.1. SAASL and all Clubs that provide services to children and young people under 18 years of age must lodge a Child Safe Environment Compliance Statement with FSA, annually, to confirm they are implementing the child safe environment requirements. FSA will, in turn, submit this statement to the Department of Human Services.

3.2. To meet the requirement outlined in subparagraph 3.1, above, on behalf of all Clubs and the League, SAASL will submit a single Child Safe Environment Compliance Statement (Association) to FSA annually, prior to the commencement of the season, and within the timeframes specified by FSA.

3.3. For SAASL to be able submit the compliance statement all Clubs must sign off on the document prior to its submission. Clubs will be provided with the Child Safe Environment Compliance JotForm which they must complete.

3.4. Clubs will not be able to participate in any SAASL sanctioned competitions until they have signed off on the Child Safe Environment Compliance Statement.

4. Working With Children Check (WWCC)

4.1. With South Australia's stronger, more effective, and transparent screening laws for those working or volunteering with children, SAASL requires everyone working or volunteering to have a valid Working With Children Check (WWCC).

4.2. All Clubs are required to be registered as an organisation with the Department of Human Services (DHS). Club registrations with SAASL will be contingent on their registration with DHS.

4.3. SAASL requires any person who works for SAASL or one of its Clubs in a paid or unpaid position, or who volunteers, to hold a current WWCC regardless of their involvement in child-related work.

The following are exempt from this requirement:

a. anyone who lives interstate, has a current child-related check from their home state, and is working at an organised event in South Australia lasting no more than 7 consecutive days*;

b. anyone who is under the age of 14.

* The seven-day exclusion does not apply if the person is involved with an overnight activity (eg end of season camp) or has close contact with children with disability.

4.4. SAASL and its Clubs shall not employ or engage a person, whether paid or unpaid, or in a volunteer capacity, without first fulfilling the below requirements:

a. Interviewing the applicant to ensure suitability for the role and for working with children.

b. Screening applicants and using Club knowledge of the individual to determine their suitability. If the applicant is unknown to the Club or is being appointed to a position of

significant responsibility, reference checks should be undertaken. It is recommended that two referees be sought.

c. Obtaining the person's WWCC.

d. If the person is a volunteer, ensuring they are registered on the PlayFootball website and a copy of their WWCC has been uploaded.

4.5. No club is to engage a person who does not have a WWCC or who is prohibited from working with children. This is a legal requirement and a maximum penalty of $120,000 applies.

4.6. A WWWC screening is completed by the individual by going online at the Department for Human Services . At the completion of the application the individual will receive a reference number. This number and the details outlined below are to be provided to the individual's Club.

a. First Name

b. Middle Name

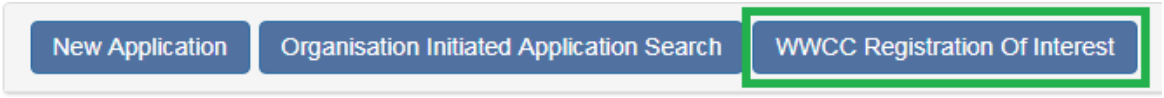
c. Family Name

d. DOB

e. Reference Number

4.7. On receipt of the above information, the club will log in, and register an interest in the person.

4.8. To verify a screening, log into your organisation portal on the Screening Unit website (https://screening.sa.gov.au) and click on the button "**WWCC Registration Of Interest**" (see below).



4.9. SAASL and its Clubs shall:

a. Ensure that all workers employed (whether paid or unpaid), and volunteers engaged to coach, instruct or otherwise, undertake re-screening for their WWCC every 5 years.

b. Provide information and education on child protection to those involved in the Club, including officials, players and parents.

c. Encourage all workers employed (whether paid or unpaid), and volunteers to complete the Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Induction. This course covers topics such as recognising, responding to and reporting concerns, child safe practices and reporting obligations and is available at: Safeguarding Sport | Sport Integrity Australia.

d. Protect the privacy of any person who is screened and the confidentiality of any information obtained through the screening process.

5. Access to PlayFootball and SAASL Volunteers and Paid Staff

5.1. Any person connected with a Club which registers players who are under 18 years of age, and who requires access to the PlayFootball Registration System, must have a WWCC.

5.2. A person who requires access to the Registration System is required to complete a WWCC online at Department for Human Services. Once the person has completed the WWCC, the below information must be provided to SAASL for verification.

a. First Name

b. Middle Name

c. Family Name

d. DOB

e. Reference Number

5.3. SAASL designated staff will verify the person has the WWCC prior to providing access to the Registration System or engaging the person in the role.

6. Mandated Notifiers

6.1. 'Mandated Notifiers' are employees or volunteers in a government or non-government organisation that provides health, welfare, education, sporting or recreational services, childcare or residential services, wholly or partly for children. Therefore, the following people within SAASL and its Clubs are required, by law, to report harm or risk of harm to children and young people:

Coaches

Trainers

Managers

Leaders

Any person providing services to children and young people

6.2. Any Mandated Notifier who suspects, on reasonable grounds, that a child or young person is at risk of being harmed, must contact the Child Abuse Report Line (CARL) on 13 14 78 without delay to report their concerns.

6.3. All adults, employees, volunteers have a legal obligation to:

a. Report child sexual abuse to the police.

b. Protect a child from sexual abuse.

Failure to meet these obligations may be considered a criminal offence (Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 (s.64A & s.65).

6.4. The League and Clubs are to ensure:

a. The person who identifies the harm is the person who makes the report to CARL/ the South Australia Police.

b. If an internal report is also required following the report to CARL/SA Police, this is completed.

c. Processes are in place to ensure the ongoing safety of children and young people following any report to authorities or if a person in the League or a Club has caused harm to children or young people.

d. Support is provided to children and young people following any report of harm or a risk of harm to children or young people being made.

6.5. For more information on Mandated Notifiers and their role visit:
https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse/mandated-notifiers-and-their-role

7. Further Information

7.1. If your club requires any further assistance in relation to the requirements outlined in this policy, please contact SAASL.

7.2. Further Information is also available at:

Football Australia Member Protection Framework: Safeguarding Policy
24-0321 - Member Protection Framework - Safeguarding Policy (20260114).pdf

Football South Australia's (FSA's) Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People
Football SA- Child Safe Regulations - November 2025 clean_0.pdf

Office for Recreation and Sport
Keeping Children Safe | Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing

Department of Human Services
https://screening.sa.gov.au/types-of-check/new-working-with-children-checks

Play by the Rules
https://www.playbytherules.net.au/

Sport Integrity Australia
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Signed SAASL President

Date: 30th July 2026

Signed SAASL Business Manager

Date: 30th July 2026