



CHILD SAFEGUARD & PROTECTION POLICY

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1. Policy Statement

Australian Oztag is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all children and young people participating in Tag activities. The safety and wellbeing of children is our highest priority.

We have zero tolerance for child abuse, neglect, grooming, bullying or exploitation.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals participating in Australian Oztag sanctioned events, including:

- Players
- Coaches
- Referees
- Officials
- Volunteers
- Staff
- Contractors
- Team managers and support personnel

3. Commitment to Child Safety

Australian Oztag will:

- Promote the safety and wellbeing of children in all activities
- Act in the best interests of the child at all times
- Take all concerns and allegations seriously
- Respond promptly, fairly and transparently
- Comply with state and territory child protection laws

4. What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse includes:

- Physical abuse – non-accidental injury or harm
- Sexual abuse or misconduct – any sexual act, grooming or exploitation
- Emotional or psychological abuse – behaviour that harms a child's wellbeing
- Neglect – failure to provide basic physical or emotional care

5. Codes of Behaviour for Adults Working with Children

Adults involved in Tag must:

- Treat all children with respect and dignity
- Use positive and age-appropriate language
- Avoid being alone with a child where possible
- Ensure supervision in change rooms and accommodation
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact
- Never engage in private or inappropriate online communication with a child
- Not transport a child alone without parental consent and organisational approval

6. Screening and Recruitment

We are subject to the laws and requirements in this jurisdiction that competitions are delivered. Australian Oztag requires individuals working with children to:

- Hold a valid NSW Working With Children Check (WWCC) or equivalent clearance
- Provide identification and screening information where required
- Complete any safeguarding induction or training required

WWCC requirements apply in accordance with national, state or territory legislation.

7. Working With Children Check – Visiting Teams and Officials Policy

To comply with NSW child-safe legislation and uphold our duty of care to children and young people, the following requirements apply to visiting teams participating in events in NSW, Australia:

Applicability

This policy applies to all teams, touring groups, and sporting bodies participating in activities, competitions, training, or events sanctioned by our organisation where participants are under 18 years of age.

Definition of Child-Related Roles

Adult team officials considered to be engaged in child-related work include, but are not limited to:

- Coaches, assistant coaches, and trainers
- Team managers and tour coordinators
- Chaperones and supervisory staff
- Medical and support personnel
- Any adult with responsibility for the care, supervision, or management of junior participants

WWCC Requirement

Where an adult visiting official will have regular or supervisory contact with children, they may be required to hold a valid NSW Working With Children Check (WWCC) in accordance with NSW law.

Overseas and Interstate Visitors

As NSW does not automatically recognise overseas screening checks, visiting organisations must provide:

- A list of all adult officials and their roles
- Details of any child-safety or background screening completed in their home jurisdiction

AustralianOztag will assess the level of child-related contact and determine whether a NSW WWCC is required or whether alternative risk-management measures may be accepted.

Alternative Safeguards (Where WWCC Not Practical)

Where obtaining a NSW WWCC is impractical due to short-term visits, the ITF may implement additional safeguards, including:

- Ensuring visiting officials are not alone with children
- Requiring supervision by a WWCC-cleared local official
- Written child-safety declarations from visiting officials

Right to Refuse Participation

The organisation reserves the right to restrict or refuse participation of any adult official who does not meet child-safety requirements deemed necessary under NSW legislation and organisational policy.

8. Reporting Concerns

Any person who reasonably suspects a child is at risk of harm must report the concern immediately.

Reports can be made to:

Australian Oztag Safeguarding/Integrity Officer

Luke Manahan

luke@oztag.com.au

If a child is in immediate danger, contact Police on 000.

Reports will be handled promptly, sensitively and confidentially. International Tag Federation will not tolerate victimisation of anyone who raises a concern in good faith.

9. Responding to Allegations

Australian Oztag will:

- Prioritise the safety of the child
- Follow legal reporting obligations
- Cooperate with police or child protection authorities
- Manage internal risk and disciplinary processes

10. Digital and Online Safety

Adults must not:

- Send private messages to children unrelated to sport
- Request personal images
- Engage in online conversations that are inappropriate

Communication with juniors should occur through parents/guardians or approved team channels.

11. Use of Images of Children

Images or video of children may only be used:

- With parent/guardian consent
- For legitimate Tag purposes
- Without identifying personal information

Cameras and recording devices are prohibited in change rooms, showers and toilets.

12. Education and Awareness

Australian Oztag will promote child safeguarding awareness through education, training and communication with associations, clubs and volunteers.

13. Breaches of This Policy

Breaches may result in disciplinary action, suspension, removal from roles, or referral to authorities.

14. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it reflects current best practice and legal requirements.