



June 2017

## Victorian Child Safety Standards

From 1 January 2017 the Victorian Child Safety Standards apply to clubs/centres, associations and coaching businesses. These principle-based standards are initially focused on policy, education and capacity building.

Your club/association/coaching business will likely already have many relevant policies, processes and practices in place. This advice on the Child Safety Standards will help you to start to identify and address any **gaps**.

TV and Tennis Australia (TA) have a zero tolerance approach to any form of child-abuse and are committed to ensuring the sport of tennis provides a safe and friendly environment for children and young people.

This commitment has been adopted by the Boards of both [TA](#) and [TV](#), and embraced by all staff. We trust that you, and your club, centre or association, also shares this commitment.

To ensure a best practice approach, TA has recently released Safeguarding Children Guidelines and a Club Toolkit, developed following a national review conducted by the Australian Childhood Foundation. These resources are available at [tennis.com.au/childsafe](http://tennis.com.au/childsafe), and all club committee members are encouraged to read and apply the content.

### **1. Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including effective leadership arrangements**

You, your committee and your club's coach have a responsibility to take the lead at your club/association with a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety issues. We strongly encourage you to read and discuss the Safeguarding Children Guidelines at a committee meeting, and to attend education sessions offered by Tennis Australia from August 2017 onwards.

### **2. A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety**

Tennis Australia and Tennis Victoria have taken the expert advice from the Australian Childhood Foundation, that a unified policy or statement across all of national, state and local levels is best practice in setting the child safety culture within a sport.

As such, the Tennis child safe policy has been incorporated within the content of an update to the Tennis Australia Member Protection Policy, which is binding on all affiliated clubs/centres/associations, and their registered players and coaches.

Clubs are also encouraged to formally adopt the statement of commitment included in the [Club Toolkit](#) at a committee meeting.

### **3. A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children**

The content of the Safeguarding Children Guidelines and Club Toolkit provide this guidance.

### **4. Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel**



A Working with Children Check is a required screening practice for adults who have unsupervised contact with children as part of their role. An interactive tool to determine if this is required [is available](#).

Additional screening tools are available within the Safeguarding Children Guidelines and Club Toolkit.

## **5. Process for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse**

Tennis Australia's [Member Protection Policy](#) applies to all clubs and members.

The child protection sections of the Member Protection Policy are consistent with Victorian laws that require mandatory reporting by any adult who has a reasonable belief that child sexual abuse has occurred. More information on this topic is available from the [Department of Justice](#).

Additionally, complaints can be made to Tennis Australia via:

- An [online form](#)
- A 24 hour telephone reporting and assistance service enabling victims to get information and advice on what to do next. The number is 1800 11 SAFE (1800 117 233).

## **6. Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse**

The content of the Safeguarding Children Guidelines and Club Toolkit provide this guidance.

## **7. Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children**

Resources, including posters that can be displayed at your club, are available as part of the Safeguarding Children Guidelines and Club Toolkit.

**For more information please visit [tennis.com.au/childsaf](https://tennis.com.au/childsaf)**