



# **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ICE HOCKEY** **ASSOCIATION**

## **Child-Safe/Mandatory Notification** **Policy**

Adopted by the South Australian Ice Hockey Association Inc.  
at the Board meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2012

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Organisations such as the South Australian Ice Hockey Association Incorporated (IHSA) that provide sport and recreation services wholly or partly for children are required to provide an environment that is safe for children. This document provides information on the IHSA Child-Safe/Mandatory Notification Policy which must be adhered to by all IHSA members whom are working with members under the age of 18 years.

## 1. Policy

- 1.1 The fundamental objective of the Child-Safe/Mandatory Notification Policy is to ensure IHSA upholds its duty of care and provides protection for all IHSA members aged under 18 years.
- 1.2 The policy should be read in conjunction with the IHSA National Police Check Certificate Policy, the Ice Hockey Australia Member Protection Policy and IHA Members Code of Behaviour & Ethics.
- 1.3 This policy applies to all Coaches, Team Managers, Division Co-ordinators and adults within officially appointed positions of responsibility whom work with members of IHSA whom are aged under 18 years of age.
- 1.4 IHSA will promote the well-being and safety of children and as such will have the following policies freely available to members: Child-Safe Mandatory Notification Policy, National Policy Check Certificate Policy, IHA Member Protection Policy, and IHA Members Code of Behaviour & Ethics.
- 1.5 IHSA will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all Coaches, Team Managers, Division Co-ordinators and adults within officially appointed positions of responsibility whom work with members of IHSA whom are aged under 18 years of age are suitable to work with children. This will include such people undertaking and providing regular National Police Check Certificates and Member Protection Declaration Forms.
- 1.6 All Coaches, Team Managers, Division Co-ordinators and adults within officially appointed positions of responsibility whom work with members of IHSA whom are aged under 18 years of age will have access to ongoing training, support and development about working with children. This may involve coaching qualifications, Child-Safe training, *Play by the Rules* online training and building awareness of all IHSA policies and procedures.
- 1.7 Every IHSA member has a responsibility to care for and protect all children who participate in its activities. This requires:
- Reporting any form of abuse or concerning behaviour towards a child even if it is verbal or emotional
  - Being caring and understanding towards the child
  - Showing that the child is believed even if the information they disclose is uncomfortable
  - Not blaming the child in any way
  - Telephoning the *Child Abuse Report Line on 13 14 78*.
- 1.8 IHSA will adhere to The Children Protection Act's (1993) requirement for mandatory notification of suspected child abuse. It a legal requirement to report a reasonable suspicion or incidences of abuse or neglect. A reasonable suspicion must be based on facts, for example:
- A disclosure of abuse by a child
  - Professional judgment, based on the notifier's experience and observations
  - Disclosure by a child or an adult that a child is being abused or is at risk.
- 1.9 IHSA will ensure that all persons within the club who are mandated notifiers under The Children Protection Act are aware of this and know how to respond appropriately.

1.10 All IHSA Coaches, Team Managers, Division Co-ordinators and adults within officially appointed positions of responsibility whom work with members of IHSA whom are aged under 18 years of age are mandated to report suspected child abuse.

## **2. Principles**

2.1 These principles apply to all IHSA Coaches, Team Managers, Division Co-ordinators and adults within officially appointed positions of responsibility whom work with members of IHSA whom are aged under 18 years of age.

2.2 IHSA will endeavour to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of its members.

## **3. Procedures**

3.1 Any IHSA Coach, Team Manager, Division Co-ordinator and adult within officially appointed positions of responsibility whom work with members of IHSA whom are aged under 18 years of age, must familiarise themselves with, and abide by, the IHSA Child-Safe Mandatory Notification Policy, IHSA National Policy Check Certificate Policy, IHA Member Protection Policy, and IHA Members Code of Behaviour & Ethics.

3.2 Any IHSA Coach, Team Manager, Division Co-ordinator and adult within officially appointed positions of responsibility whom work with members of IHSA whom are aged under 18 years of age, who suspects an occurrence of child abuse and/or neglect must report any form of abuse or concerning behaviour towards a child even if it is verbal or emotional to the IHSA Child Safe Officer/Member Protection Officer and to the *Child Abuse Report Line* on 13 14 78 if there are suspicions of physical or sexual abuse.

3.3 Where there is an incident of suspected child abuse, the IHSA Child Safe Officer/Member Protection Officer or designated club official should immediately make contact with the relevant authorities such as Ice Hockey Australia, Families SA and the SA Police to seek advice.

## **4. Penalties for Breaching the Policy**

4.1 Any IHSA Coach, Team Manager, Division Co-ordinator and adult within officially appointed positions of responsibility whom work with members of IHSA whom are aged under 18 years of age who does not adhere to the Child-Safe/Mandatory Notification Policy will be removed from their position and prevented from interacting with child members of IHSA.