| **Child Safe Policy** | Approval Date:  | 28/07/21 |
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**BACKGROUND**

Adelaide University eSports is committed to providing child safe environments for sport and recreation according to the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 and the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016.

AUE is committed to providing a child safe environment, which includes the following:

* taking a preventative, proactive and participatory stance on child protection issues
* valuing and embracing the opinions and views of children and young people
* assisting children and young people to build skills that will assist them to participate in society
* focusing on the protection of children and young people and take action to protect them from harm
* providing parents, guardians or carers with evidence of child safe environment policy and procedures when requested.

This Policy demonstrates the strong commitment of AUE to the safety of children and young people and establishing and maintaining child safe and child friendly environments. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where all children and young people are respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.

**PURPOSE**

This Policy is designed to:

* show staff, volunteers, parents, guardians, carers, children and young people at AUSF are committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people;
* set out appropriate standards of behaviour and practices for people working and volunteering with children and young people;
* increase staff and volunteer awareness of risks to children and young people and the strategies in place to minimise them; and
* build staff and volunteer knowledge of how to identify if a child or young person is, or may be, at risk and respond appropriately.

**SCREENING AND SUPERVISION**

AUE will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children (in prescribed positions). This will be achieved using a range of screening measures such as the Department of Human Services (DHS) Working with Children Checks (WWCC), signed declarations, referee checks, and other relevant background checks. Such measures will aim to minimise the likelihood of engaging (or retaining) people who are unsuitable to work with children.

**WWCC**

The WWCC aim to create a child-safe environment and to protect children and young people involved in our sport from physical and sexual harm. They assess the suitability of people to work with children and young people. AUE will ensure that WWCC are conducted for employees and volunteers working with children, where an assessment is required by law. AUE is also required to ensure that the same checks are completed for their volunteers.

A WWCC can be applied for by affiliated club volunteers on the AUSF website.

<https://www.adelaideunisport.com.au/Forms/186>

Detailed information, including the forms required to complete a Working with Children Check, are available from the Department of Human Services [https://dhs.sa.gov.au/] and National Police Check [www.police.sa.gov.au]

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

AUE has access through AUSF to training with Play By the Rules. AUE will ensure that volunteers and employees who work with children or have access to their records have ongoing supervision, support and training such that their performance is developed and enhanced to promote the establishment and maintenance of a child-safe environment.

AUE will also support mandated notifiers who are engaged in the delivery of sport and recreation to children, or hold a management position where their duties include direct responsibility for, or direct supervision of, the provision of those services to children) under to meet their legal obligation to notify of any reasonable suspicion of child harm or risk of harm. AUSF is the first point of contact to report concern.

**REPORTING AND FIRST RESPONSE TO SUSPECTED RISK OF HARM OR HARM**

AUE will ensure that volunteers and employees are able to identify children at risk of harm. The person who has a reasonable belief that harm or risk of harm is occurring will need to contact the Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78 to discuss their concern.

**BREACHES OF CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT POLICY**

Any person who has a reasonable belief that harm or risk of harm is occurring will need to contact the Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78 to discuss their concern. The requirements for mandatory reporting in South Australia shall be followed: <https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse/mandated-notifiers-and-their-role>