

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

As at June 2018



1 Application

The *National Child Protection Policy* (**Policy**) will apply to a Little Athletics centre that is conducted or administered by:

(a) A State or Territory Association that is affiliated with Little Athletics Australia including:

- a. ACT: Little Athletics ACT
- b. NSW: Little Athletics NSW
- c. QLD: Little Athletics QLD
- d. SA: Little Athletics SA
- e. TAS: Little Athletics Tasmania
- f. VIC: Little Athletics Victoria
- g. WA: Athletics West
- h. NT: Athletics Northern Territory

(b) an entity or body that is affiliated with (or licensed by) an Affiliated State or Territory Body.

(Little **Athletic Body**)

The Policy applies to the Little Athletics athletes; coaches; officials; spectators; volunteers and administrators and all people reasonably connected to Little Athletics (**Members**).

2 Policy Statement

The Little Athletics Body and Members are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people involved in Little Athletics.

The rights of children are fundamental. The Little Athletics Body and Members support the active participation of children in Little Athletics.

This Policy provides the Little Athletics Body and Members guidance to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all children in Little Athletics and to assist with obligations under child protection laws.

3 What is Child Abuse?

Child protection laws apply in each state and territory and cover the reporting and investigation of child abuse. The Little Athletics Body and Members must comply with all applicable child protection laws.

Child abuse involves conduct which puts children, including unborn children, at risk of harm or neglect. Child abuse can be inflicted by adults or other children and can include:

- a) Physical abuse by hurting a child or a child's development (e.g. hitting, shaking or other physical harm; giving a child alcohol or drugs; or training that exceeds the child's development or maturity).
- b) Sexual abuse by adults or other children where a child is encouraged or forced to watch or engage in sexual activity or where a child is subject to any other inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature (e.g. sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, pornography including child pornography or inappropriate touching or conversations).
- c) Emotional abuse by ill-treating a child (e.g. humiliation, taunting, sarcasm, yelling, negative criticism, name calling, ignoring or placing unrealistic expectations on a child).
- d) Neglect, including medical neglect (e.g. failing to give food, water, shelter or clothing or to protect a child from danger or foreseeable risk of harm or injury).

In addition, The Little Athletics Body and Members should ensure that a child is not left unattended without making appropriate arrangements for the child's supervision and care.

4 Reporting Child Abuse

If the Little Athletics Body or any Member reasonably suspects or believes that a child needs protection, it should report immediately to the police or the relevant government agency.

The Little Athletics Body and Members must comply with all applicable mandatory reporting laws. Mandatory reporting is a term used to describe the legislative requirement imposed on selected classes of people to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect to government authorities. All Australian states and territories have enacted mandatory reporting laws. However, the laws are not the same across all jurisdictions.

The Little Athletics Body and Members must comply with all relevant child protection laws when dealing with a complaint or incidence of child abuse. In particular:

- a) The Little Athletics Body and Members should deal with all allegations of child abuse promptly and confidentially and should not disclose information about the child, the accused or details of the complaint except as required by law.
- b) The Little Athletics Body and Members should not attempt to investigate, mediate or conduct any hearing into any allegation of child abuse.

5 Working with Children: Statutory Obligations

The Little Athletics Body acknowledges that selecting suitable and appropriate people to work with children is vital. The Little Athletics Body should conduct reference checks as far as practicable in relation to Members who are required to work with children.

All Members who are required to work with children must comply with the working with children obligations in their state or territory. This may involve a Member undertaking a “working with children check” to determine their suitability to work in a paid or volunteer capacity with children.

Information about statutory working with children obligations can be found in the URLs below:

- QLD: <http://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/>
- NSW: www.check.kids.nsw.gov.au/
- WA: www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au
- VIC: www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren
- SA www.families.sa.gov.au/pages/protectingchildren
- TAS: www.police.tas.gov.au
- NT: <http://www.workingwithchildren.nt.gov.au>
- ACT: http://www.ors.act.gov.au/community/working_with_vulnerable_people_wwvp
- NT: <https://nt.gov.au/emergency/community-safety/apply-for-a-working-with-children-clearance>

NB: The Little Athletics Body or Member may be required to comply with multiple state or territory obligations.

If the Little Athletics Body or Member intends to engage in child-related work in a different state or territory it should refer to the relevant state or territory body for advice about what obligations apply.

For example, a Little Athletics or Member taking children interstate for training camps or competition should ensure compliance with all applicable laws of the state or territory it is visiting.

6 Taking Images of Children

The Little Athletics Body or Member should inform the parent/guardian about the nature of the use of the image(s) as well as how the image(s) will be stored and how the image(s) can be accessed by the parent/guardian.

The Little Athletics Body or Member should obtain permission from a child's parent/guardian before using an image of a child. The image(s) should be sufficiently connected to Little Athletics and the child should be suitably clothed in a manner that promotes Little Athletics.

The Little Athletics Body and Members should respect the privacy of other Members and must not use camera phones, cameras, video cameras or any other type of recording or photo taking device inside changing areas, showers and toilets.

7 Communication and Review

The Little Athletic Body should:

- a) distribute and discuss this Policy with all Members including during induction sessions for new staff and volunteer Members;
- b) ensure that a copy of this Policy is accessible to all Members. Further, the Policy will be available online at:
and
- c) review this Policy at least annually.