

## Myponga Netball Club Inc

# Guidelines For Interacting With Children

These guidelines are for coaches and other personnel from Myponga Netball Club to protect them from risk and to keep children safe. Myponga Netball Club has developed these guidelines specifically to be tailored for Netball and the context/community of Myponga Netball Club inc.

### **Maintain appropriate boundaries**

Coaches and other personnel in positions of authority should maintain clear:

#### **Physical boundaries**

- Use drills to develop fitness and not for punitive reasons
- Only use physical contact that is appropriate for the development of a particular skill and has the permission of the athlete
- Work within sight of others at all times

#### **Emotional boundaries**

- Use positive and constructive feedback on performance, avoid negative feedback towards the athlete
- Be encouraging and avoid put-downs, pay outs and negative language that may cause risk or harm to a child or young person

#### **Social boundaries**

- Attend sport related events such as sponsorship and fundraising events, celebrations and annual meetings avoid or do not socialise with athletes outside sporting functions.
- Do not socialise with athletes via social media unless on a platform monitored by athletes parent/guardian.

#### **Sexual boundaries**

- Do not touch athletes in ways likely to make them feel uncomfortable
- Do not enter into sexual relationships with athletes

*Play by the Rules* is supported by the Australian, state and territory governments.

The information on *Play by the Rules* is not intended as a substitute for legal or other professional advice.

© *Play by the Rules* [www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au)

Policy Updated 14.11.2023 requires review bi-yearly

## **Minimise physical contact**

Broadly, physical contact with players or participants should be to:

- Develop sport skills
- Give sports massage
- Treat an injury
- Prevent or respond to an injury
- Meet the specific requirements of the sport

All physical contact by personnel should fulfil the following criteria:

- Physical contact should be appropriate for the development of a sport skill/s
- Permission from the player or participant should always be sought
- Players or participants should be congratulated or comforted in public not in an isolated setting

## **Avoid being alone with a child**

To protect yourself and the child/young person from risk:

- Sporting club personnel are to avoid being isolated/alone with any particular child or young person
- If a child approaches sporting club personnel and wants to talk privately about a matter, do so in an open area and in sight of other adults (e.g. other coaches, officials or parents/guardians)
- Before going into change rooms knock or announce that sporting club personnel will be entering. Try to have at least one adult with other sporting club personnel in a change room with children/young people

*Play by the Rules* is supported by the Australian, state and territory governments.

The information on *Play by the Rules* is not intended as a substitute for legal or other professional advice.

© *Play by the Rules* [www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au)

Policy Edited and Updated 14.11.2023 requires review bi-yearly