

4. POLICY AIMS

Every child and young person who plays football should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from any and all forms of abuse and this is the responsibility of every adult involved in the game.

Coerver Coaching recognises that child abuse is a very emotive and challenging subject. Whilst it is important to understand the feelings involved, we must not allow them to interfere with our judgement about any action to be taken.

Coerver Coaching also recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from neglect, physical, sexual or emotional harm and from bullying.

Coerver Coaching is determined to meet its obligation by ensuring that Licensees providing football coaching programs for children and young people on its behalf provide the highest possible standards of care.

This policy is designed to ensure that everyone knows exactly what is expected of them in relation to the protection of children and young people under their supervision. It is essential that those children and young people attracted to and participating in football can do so in a quality, safe, supportive and enjoyable environment.

In striving to attain this, Coerver Coaching has two mandatory requirements:

- I. A requirement that all persons representing Coerver Coaching read our rules, regulations and policy statements relating to safeguarding and child protection and agree to abide by these documents at all times
- II. Subject to this being legally possible in the territory in which they operate it is a requirement that all persons who actively represent Coerver Coaching undertake the following background checks
 - i. Criminal offenders
 - ii. Sexual offenders

In addition to the above, Coerver Coaching also has the following aims and objectives:

- To raise awareness of child protection issues and equip children with the skills needed to keep them safe;
- To develop and implement procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse and/or poor practice
- To establish a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

The key principles underpinning this policy are that:

- The safety and welfare of children and young people are our primary consideration

- All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual identity
- All Coerver Coaching Licensees will work in partnership with children and young people and their parents/carers
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously, and we will respond swiftly and appropriately
- All Coerver Coaching Licensees will also work in partnership with statutory agencies, including the Police and Children's Social Care (or equivalent in the territory in which they operate), to ensure that children are protected.