

# Child safeguarding policies and procedures

—  
FOR PLAY, ACTIVE  
RECREATION AND SPORT  
ORGANISATIONS



# Introduction

## Children's wellbeing in play, active recreation and sport

As the kaitiaki of the play, active recreation and sport system, Sport NZ is committed to supporting organisations to implement best safeguarding practices to ensure the wellbeing of tamariki and rangitahi. Sport NZ aims to make sure that the involvement of tamariki and rangitahi in play, active recreation and sport is kept fun, safe and inclusive for all.

Sport NZ will help organisations promote the wellbeing of children and young people and consider how they can prevent any risk of harm to children and young people and respond accordingly.

- All children have the right to thrive and participate in play, active recreation and sport.
- Children and young people's participation in play, active recreation and sport helps to promote the wellbeing of children.

Children make up a quarter of Aotearoa New Zealand's population. Their needs, rights and views need to be recognised in decisions made across the play, active recreation and sport organisations in Aotearoa New Zealand.

## Child safeguarding in play, active recreation and sport

The wellbeing and ability for children and young people to thrive in play, active recreation and sport also requires their safety and welfare is covered too. Children and young people have the right to be free from harm and abuse.

Child safeguarding is the set of actions organisations can take to keep them safe from harm. It is a broad term encompassing the prevention of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect of children.

Even if good preventive measures are in place, concerns about a child's wellbeing may still arise.

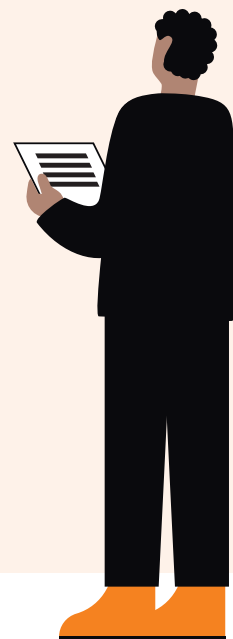
Child protection is an essential part of safeguarding and refers to the action taken in response to a specific concern for a child or children who may be suffering or is/are at risk of suffering harm or abuse. It requires referral to specialised child protection services, law enforcement agencies and expert local organisations that are trained to provide advice and manage cases, if concerns arise.

## Sport NZ's commitment

Sport NZ recognise many organisations already have good policies, procedures and training in place and seeks to build on the great work of those organisations, while providing a starting point for some to begin their child safeguarding journey.

These policies are part of Sport NZ's overall commitment to safeguard children and will be supplemented with further guidance, templates, knowledge-sharing and training to support national organisations, together with regional and community organisations.

This a living document that will be updated as needed to reflect legislative and best practice changes and feedback and consultation relating to the practical experience of the organisations within the play, active recreation and sport system.



# Who are these safeguarding policies for?

This is a resource for all organisations working to safeguard children in play, active recreation and sport, to help them:

- recognise the needs, rights and views of children to enjoy involvement in play, active recreation and sport
- promote accountability and responsibility for keeping children safe from harm when involved in play, active recreation and sport
- self-assess and inform the development of their safeguarding policies, plans and programmes, including for human resource and training needs
- direct staff to training opportunities and resources to upskill in this area
- support staff and volunteers who provide services, training and programmes to children and young people to apply good practice for effective action.



# What these policies do not include

These policies do not:

- Replace what organisations currently have in place in terms of policies, procedures and training on child safeguarding, if what is in place is up to date and working well.
- Provide complete guidance for implementation (for example, safeguarding children at tournaments and competitions). While recognising the need for a comprehensive, system-wide approach to safeguarding, these policies and procedures offer information to help organisations focus on a set of principles to build from.
- Address abuse of those over the age of 18. However, proactive efforts by organisations to safeguard children will form a basis to safeguard everyone across the play, active recreation and sport system and will support a culture of respect and zero tolerance for any form of abuse, bullying or harassment within the system\*.

\*For information relating to Member Protection relating to those over 18 years of age in the play, active recreation and sport system, please refer to Sport NZ's suite of Member Protection Policies.





## How to get the most out of these policies

These policies are an interactive tool to assist organisations on their safeguarding journey. Throughout the policies, users can insert details specifically relating to their organisation, including how they work with children.

There are also links to external websites for more information.

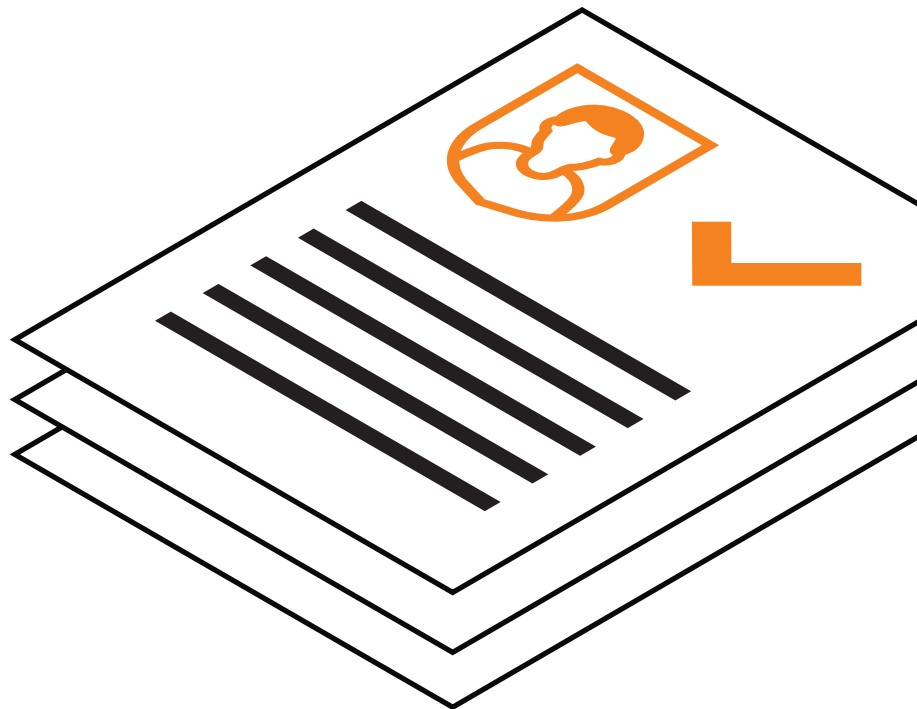
Organisations intending to adopt the policies should work through each policy to understand the reason behind the policy and how it applies and works for their organisation.

It is important organisations understand what information the policies contain and how to implement them in a real-life situation.

Name of organisation:

---

# Child safeguarding policies and procedures



**Mō tātou, ā,  
mō kā uri ā muri ake nei**  
For us and our  
children after us

The whakataukī (proverb) emphasises our duty of care towards the children that we have amongst us already, and our promise to children in future.



Level 1, Harbour City Centre  
29 Brandon Street  
Wellington 6011, New Zealand  
PO Box 2251 Wellington 6140  
Phone: +64 4 472 8058

[sportnz.org.nz](http://sportnz.org.nz)

New Zealand Government

October 2020