BALDIVIS LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE INC.

Registration Number: A1025103V

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

14/06/2024

INTRODUCTION

Baldivis Little Athletics Centre (Baldivis LAC) is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people participating in our sport. As an affiliate of Athletics West (AW), we are required to comply with and abide by the Athletics West and Little Athletics Australia National Child Protection Policy.

We support the rights of children and will act without hesitation to ensure a child's safe environment is maintained at all times. We also support the rights and wellbeing of our volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants.

It is a legislative requirement of the State Government of WA for (Org) to comply with the requirements of the Working With Children (WWC) Card, ensuring all coaches, officials and club administrators who engage in regular child-related work (paid or unpaid), must have a valid Working With Children's Card. Child related work includes coaching, volunteering and supporting sport related events and clubs, coaching and education tuition where U18's are present. This includes all club office bearers. More information about persons that require a WWC Card can be found here.

Categories of people requiring a WWC Card include:

- Coach that regularly coaches anyone under the age of 18.
- Officials that regularly officiate at competitions where there are U18's.
- Administrators such as committee members that have registered members U18.

EXEMPTIONS

There are exemptions that apply to the following categories, where a WWC card is not required:

- **Parent exemption** – Parents who are coaches or administrator/committee member and have a registered member (child) under 18 years old, are NOT required to obtain a WWC Check if they are regularly engaged in child-related work (paid or unpaid). However, if their child is no longer involved in the program, event, or centre, they must obtain a WWC Check.

- **5-day Threshold and Defence** – Adults that simply support in a one off occasion (assist at a competition on the night with no prior planning) do NOT require a WWC. The adult has 5 days per year where they are able to assist ad hoc, however NOT 5 days in a row.

The WWC Card is a process to support both minors and the coach/official/administrator. In the unlikely event of a child safeguarding matter arising, a valid WWC card ensures that all processes have been put in place to support all members of the athletics community. All Athletics West affiliated Clubs and Centres must ensure that their members who require a valid WWC have one. Anyone wishing to coach or officiate at any Athletics West sanctioned event or Club/Centre run

programs will be required to hold a valid card, not doing so may result in being unable to carry out your chosen role.

APPLYING FOR A WWC CHECK

Applying for a WWC Check is straight forward and can be done at your local post office. The links below highlight how to apply for a Card in simple straight forwards steps. If you are applying for the first time, please list Athletics West as the organisation you are volunteering through, as this will ensure that the card is linked to the appropriate organisation.

How to apply:

https://workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au/applicants-card-holders/applying-for-a-wwc-check/how-to-apply

Checking if your current card has expired:

https://workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au/card-validation

OUR COMMITMENT

Baldivis Little Athletics Centre acknowledges that our members, and volunteers provide a valuable contribution to the positive experiences of children involved in our sport. We aim to continue this and to take measures to protect the safety and welfare of children participating in our sport in the following ways:

1. Identify and Analyse Risk of Harm

Baldivis Little Athletics Centre with the support of Athletics West will develop and implement a risk management strategy, which includes a review of existing child protection practices, to determine how child-safe and child-friendly the organisation is and to determine what additional strategies are required to minimise and prevent risk of harm to children because of the action of a volunteer, or another person.

2. Code of Conduct for Adults and Children

Baldivis Little Athletics Centre has a Code of Conduct that specify standards of conduct and care when dealing and interacting with children, particularly those in the care of our Centre. This Code of Conduct along with our Behaviour Management Policy, addresses appropriate behaviour between children.

The Code of Conduct and Behaviour Management Policy, as displayed on our website, provide guidelines of the professional boundaries, ethical behaviour, and unacceptable behaviour, and can be found here. Centres that do not have a Code of Conduct published will default to Athletics West's Code of Conducts as set out in AW's Member Protection Policy here.

3. Supervision

Members under the age of 18 must be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. During our organised events, Baldivis Little Athletics Centre will provide a level of supervision adequate and relative to the members' age, maturity, capabilities, level of experience, nature of activity and nature of venue. If a member or non-member finds a member under the age of 18 is unsupervised, they should assume responsibility for the member's safety until the parent/guardian or supervisor can be found.

4. Transportation

Parents/guardians are responsible for ensure appropriate transport for their children to and from Athletics West and Centre activities (e.g., training and events). This may include children driving themselves where they are legally licenced to do so.

5. Taking Images of Children

Most people taking images of children at sporting events are doing so for acceptable reasons and are using appropriate methods, for example a parent videoing their child at a sports presentation or a professional photographer taking photos for a Centre. However, there are important considerations for sports clubs and associations when acquiring and displaying images of children and young people on social media, websites, online, in publications or other mediums. Please refer to our Photographing Children Guideline published on our website for further information and reporting an unlawful incident.

Baldivis Little Athletics Centre Inc.

PO Box 4082

BALDIVIS WA 6171

www.baldivislac.com.au

VERSION HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	REVISED BY	COMMENTS
Original V1.0	14/06/2024	Jessica Muir	Endorsed at Committee Meeting