

## NSWFA Inc Child Protection Policy

### ***NSWFA Inc Executive Statement***

The issue of child abuse is a complex problem that has an impact on all areas of society, including participation in sport and recreation activities.

Protecting children from abuse is a responsibility we must all accept.

The New South Wales Fencing Association Incorporated (NSWFA Inc) is taking a pro-active role in relation to child protection so that young people can enjoy the sport of fencing in a safe and positive environment.

This Child Protection Policy creates a framework within which NSWFA Inc can meet its obligations to protect children participating in the sport of fencing. It provides direction for participating fencers, officials, coaches, volunteers, members and parents involved in activities controlled by NSWFA Inc and its affiliated Clubs.



President, NSW Fencing Association Inc

9 June 2010

## **NSWFA Inc Child Protection Policy**

The NSWFA Inc is committed to the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children at all times during their participation in activities run by NSWFA Inc and its affiliated Clubs.

NSWFA Inc aims to promote a safe environment for all children and to assist all officials, coaches, members, volunteers and parents to recognise child abuse and follow the appropriate notification procedures when reporting alleged abuse.

For the purpose of this Policy, a child is anyone under the age of 18.

### **1. Rationale**

The focus of this Policy is the prevention, detection and reporting of child abuse in the sporting environment.

This Policy promotes the care and protection of children participating in any way in activities run by NSWFA Inc and provides information and direction for officials, fencers, coaches, volunteers and members of NSWFA Inc.

### **2. Objectives**

The objectives of this Policy are to:

1. provide information to assist officials, fencers, coaches, members and parents in dealing with child abuse
2. provide advice on reporting/ notification procedures
3. provide direction to all fencers, coaches, members and parents regarding their legal responsibilities under child protection legislation
4. promote good practice for child protection among officials, fencers, coaches, volunteers, members and parents of children participating in the organisation's programs and competitions.

### **3. Scope of Policy**

The NSWFA Inc Child Protection Policy applies to all officials, fencers, coaches, volunteers and members of NSWFA Inc and its affiliated Clubs.

### **4. Implementation of Legislation**

In order to meet its obligations under NSW child protection legislation, NSWFA Inc undertakes to:

1. implement policy and procedures that focus on the best interests of children and meet the requirements of child protection legislation.
2. promote a safe and supportive environment for all children participating in activities which come under the umbrella of NSW fencing.
3. increase awareness and emphasise the importance of child protection issues in a sporting environment to all those involved with the activities of NSW fencing.
4. ensure that all officials, coaches and other members of NSWFA Inc are aware of their responsibilities arising from child protection legislation, in particular, the requirements of the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998 with regard to revealing convictions for serious sex offences.

## **5. Expectations**

Administrators, coaches, volunteers and other members often have a high level of contact with children in the sporting environment and play a major part in the successful operation of sporting associations.

Coaches and officials are often seen as role models. They have significant influence on the children they come into contact with and therefore have significant responsibilities.

NSWFA Inc expects that all officials, fencers, coaches, volunteers and parents who participate in activities under the banner of NSWFA Inc will abide by this Policy.

## **6. Policy Review**

NSWFA Inc's Child Protection Policy will be reviewed annually and updated in line with any legislative changes that have a significant impact on the manner in which child protection and intervention issues are to be dealt with.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Duncan Fairweather".

President, NSW Fencing Association Inc  
9 June 2010

## Notification Procedures for Allegations of Child Abuse

NSWFA Inc acknowledges that issues regarding child abuse and the reporting of allegations of child abuse are highly sensitive, and should be dealt with in a confidential manner.

NSWFA Inc has developed these notification procedures, in accordance with NSW Government guidance, to ensure that confidentiality is maintained throughout the process and that consistent procedures for reporting are encouraged.

Information on reporting child abuse can be found at the Community Services website:

[http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/preventing\\_child\\_abuse\\_and\\_neglect/reporting\\_suspected\\_abuse\\_or\\_neglect.html](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/preventing_child_abuse_and_neglect/reporting_suspected_abuse_or_neglect.html)

**Community Services can be contacted at any time via Child Protection Helpline – 132111 – for the cost of a local call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

**Where the matter is an emergency or criminal in nature, the NSW Police must be informed. Call 000 or the NSW Police Assistance Line on 131 444**

### ***1. Child Protection Officer***

To deal appropriately with these issues and to ensure that the confidentiality of all parties involved is maintained, one or more persons within NSWFA Inc will be designated as Child Protection Officer.

The Child Protection Officer is responsible for reporting any allegations or suspicions of child abuse that occur within the sport of fencing in NSW to Community Services and where appropriate to the NSW Police.

#### **Member Protection Officers:**

**Fiona Budniak**

**Mobile: 0419 101 960**

**Email: [fiona.budniak@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.budniak@gmail.com)**

**Wendy Dall'Asen**

**Mobile: 0409 342 617**

**Email: [cdallasen@bigpond.com](mailto:cdallasen@bigpond.com)**

**Paul Anderson**

**Mobile: 0410 769 070**

**Email: [paul.anderson@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:paul.anderson@facs.nsw.gov.au)**

If a Child Protection Officer is not available then the President should be notified.

#### **NSWFA Inc President:**

**Name: Duncan Fairweather**

**Mobile: 0412 256 200**

**Email: [president@nswfencing.org.au](mailto:president@nswfencing.org.au)**

## **2. Responsibilities**

The responsibilities of the Child Protection Officer are:

1. Be available at all times to receive reports of actual or suspected child abuse – contact details of the Child Protection Officer will be made available to all members on the NSWFA Inc website. [www.nswfa.org.au](http://www.nswfa.org.au)
2. Immediately upon receiving a report of child abuse, to make an official report to the appropriate authorities.
3. Ensure, in conjunction with the Secretary, NSWFA Inc, that all Working with Children Checks are completed.
4. Be well informed about child abuse in sport, including attending courses provided by the Community Services and other agencies as appropriate.
5. Advise the NSWFA Inc Executive on policy and procedures relating to the prevention of child abuse.
6. Develop a communications program to ensure all officials, fencers, coaches and members of NSWFA Inc are aware of the issue of child abuse in sport and how to deal with it.

## **3. What Should be Reported?**

Some incidents may seem minor; however, they may in fact indicate more serious misconduct or a pattern of behaviour that requires further scrutiny. All people associated with NSW fencing should be aware of the indicators for child abuse and sexual abuse so that they may make an informed decision on what to report.

Information on child abuse, including signs of abuse, is available at:

<http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/children/wwcc.asp>

If anyone has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child participating in any organised activities conducted by NSWFA or an affiliated Club, or within fencing generally, is at risk then they should report the matter to the Child Protection Officer immediately or directly to Community Services or the NSW Police.

## **4. Investigation**

If an alleged incident of child abuse occurs within the sport of fencing in NSW it is not the responsibility of the Child Protection Officer or officials or members within NSWFA Inc to take it upon themselves to determine whether the allegation is true or false. This responsibility belongs with Community Services, the Police and the Judiciary.

Depending on the nature of the allegations and the extent of the situation, Community Services will determine the manner in which the matter will be investigated. This may involve the NSW Police.

## **5. Confidentiality**

All matters regarding allegations of child abuse are to be treated as confidential. The person designated as the Child Protection Officer is the contact person for any incident involving allegations of child abuse and is bound to maintain confidentiality. Confidentiality protects all individuals involved:

- the alleged victim
- the alleged offender, and
- the person making the notification.

## **6. Relevant Legislation**

### *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*

Under the Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998, NSWFA Inc is required to:

1. notify the Commission for Children and Young People of the name and other identifying details of any employee against whom relevant disciplinary proceedings have been completed by NSWFA Inc irrespective of the findings (except where the allegation has been proven to be vexatious, mischievous or false)
2. provide details of child abuse allegations/ convictions against employees to the Commission
3. notify the Commission of any applicants for child-related employment, rejected as a result of risks identified through employment screening processes
4. ensure that records of all information required to be submitted to the Commission for Children and Young People are retained by NSWFA Inc.

### *Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998*

Under the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998, NSWFA Inc:

1. **will not** engage a person in a child-related position without first requiring them to disclose whether or not they are a 'prohibited person'
2. **will not** engage or continue to engage, in a child-related position, a person who has been identified as a 'prohibited person'.

Officials, coaches and others who have contact with children in their work within the sport of fencing must comply with the NSW Working with Children Check. Further information is available at:

<https://check.kids.nsw.gov.au/>

## **7. Training**

NSW Sport & Recreation run regular free seminars for people in sport who want to learn more about the protection of children.

Further details are here:

<http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/children/training.asp>