



Belmont Saints Basketball Club adopts and fully complies with all Child Safety policies and procedures as set out by Southern Districts Basketball Association. These policies form the foundation of our commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all participants.

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## COMPLAINTS, REPORTING & RESPONDING PROCEDURE

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Aligned to QFCC Standard 6 – Complaints and Concerns Are Taken Seriously

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure all complaints, concerns, and allegations relating to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people within Southern Districts Basketball Association Limited (SDBAL) are handled promptly, fairly, and with sensitivity.

It provides clear steps for receiving, recording, reporting, and responding to complaints in alignment with the Queensland Child Safe Standards and the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) Safeguarding Children Accreditation Framework.

### 2. Scope

This procedure applies to all SDBAL staff, volunteers, contractors, coaches, officials, referees, players, parents, and spectators involved in any SDBAL program, competition, event, or digital platform.

### 3. Principles

- Every complaint and concern will be taken seriously.
- Children and young people will be listened to and supported.
- Complaints will be handled confidentially and without victimisation.
- Natural justice and procedural fairness will apply.
- All actions will prioritise the safety and wellbeing of the child.

### 4. Types of Complaints

Complaints may include (but are not limited to):

- Behavioural concerns or breaches of Codes of Conduct.
- Child safety concerns or suspected abuse or neglect.
- Bullying, harassment, or discrimination.
- Policy or process breaches.
- Concerns about staff, coaches, volunteers, or other members.

### 5. Roles and Responsibilities

General Manager – Oversight of complaints management, mandatory reporting, and liaison with external agencies.

Child Safety Officer – Primary contact for all child-related complaints; ensures correct reporting and support for affected persons.

Managers/Coordinators – Handle minor issues locally when appropriate and escalate serious matters.

Staff and Volunteers – Must report any concern or allegation immediately to the Child Safety Officer or General Manager.

Board of Directors – Ensures governance oversight and reviews systemic issues arising from complaints.

## 6. Complaint Escalation Table

<b>Complaint Type</b>	<b>Examples</b>	<b>Action / Escalation Pathway</b>
Minor Issue	Miscommunication, minor code breach, low-level behaviour concern.	Handled locally by Team Manager or Coordinator; record outcome and advise Child Safety Officer if repeated.
Serious Concern	Repeated misconduct, harassment, boundary violations, or safety risks.	Report to General Manager and Child Safety Officer immediately. Record using Incident Form. General Manager determines if escalation required.
Child Protection Matter	Allegation or suspicion of abuse, neglect, grooming, or criminal conduct.	Immediate report to Queensland Police (000 if urgent) and/or Department of Child Safety (1800 177 135). Notify General Manager and Board Chair.

All complaints must be documented and stored securely in accordance with the SDBAL Privacy & Data Protection Policy.

## 7. Complaint Handling Process

The SDBAL follows a five-step process for all complaints and concerns:

- **Receive:** Listen respectfully, thank the person for raising the concern, and record the details accurately.
- **Record:** Complete an Incident/Complaint Form and store it securely. Avoid making judgments or promises.
- **Report:** Notify the Child Safety Officer or General Manager immediately. For serious matters, contact Police or Child Safety Services.
- **Respond:** Provide support to those affected, implement interim safety measures, and take appropriate disciplinary or safeguarding action.
- **Review:** Analyse the issue, identify lessons learned, and update policies or training where required.

## 8. Confidentiality

All complaint information will be kept confidential and shared only with those directly involved in managing or resolving the matter. Records will be retained securely and in line with privacy legislation.

## 9. Timeframes

SDBAL aims to acknowledge all complaints within 3 business days and resolve or provide an update within 14 business days, depending on the complexity of the issue.

## 10. Related Documents

- Child Safe Policy
- Member Protection Policy
- Codes of Conduct
- Privacy & Data Protection Policy
- Risk Management Strategy for Children & Young People

## 11. References

- Child Safe Organisations Act 2024 (Qld)
- Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Qld)
- Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld)
- Basketball Queensland Member Protection Policy
- Australian Childhood Foundation Safeguarding Children Accreditation Framework
- QFCC Child Safe Standards (2024)

## Document Control and Version History

**Policy Owner:** General Manager

**Approved by:** Board of Directors

**Next Review:** March 2027

Version	Date Approved	Approved By	Policy Owner	Next Review Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	March 2026	Board of Directors	General Manager	March 2027	Initial issue