



# Marcellin Eagles Basketball Club

## Child Safe Policy

**Written By:** Simon Friars - President

**Approved By:** Marcellin Eagles Executive Committee

**Endorsed By:** Marcellin Eagles Committee

**Date for Review:** Annually when the Marcellin Eagles Parent Handbook is update at each AGM

---

### **Purpose**

This policy has been written to demonstrate Marcellin Eagles Basketball Club's strong commitment to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and practices the MEBC has developed to keep everyone safe from any harm, including abuse.

### **Commitment to Child Safety**

All children who are associated with the MEBC have a right to feel and be safe. The welfare of all children in our care will always be the MEBC's first priority which has a zero tolerance to child abuse. The MEBC aims to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and have fun. The Club's activities are always carried out in the best interests of the children which aligns with the MEBC's mission statement.

### **Application of this Policy**

This policy was developed by the MEBC Committee and in collaboration with members who have knowledge and understanding of the Child Safe Standards. From time to time the Committee calls on Club members who have specific expertise and experience on particular matters to seek advice and assistance-

This policy applies to all individuals involved with MEBC (paid and volunteer) including, but not limited to:

- Administrators
- Coaches
- Officials
- Participants
- Parents
- Players over the age of 18
- Spectators.

All of the people to which this policy applies have a role and responsibility in relation to child protection. They must all:

- understand the indicators and risks of child abuse;
- appropriately act on any concerns raised by children; and
- understand and follow all applicable laws in relation to the protection of children and reporting or management of child safety concerns.

### **Child Abuse**

Child abuse can take a broad range of forms including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse and neglect. People to whom this policy applies need to be aware that child abuse can occur whenever there is actual or potential harm to a child, and these are circumstances that the Club is committed to reducing the risk of occurrence.

### **Children's Rights to Safety and Participation**

The Club encourages children to express their views about their safety. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We encourage all children who are our members to 'have a say' about things that are important to them.

We listen to and act on any concerns children, or their parents, raise with us through our grievance processes

### **Valuing Diversity**

We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices. To achieve this we:

- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children and their families;
- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and their families;
- welcome children with a disability and their families and act to promote their participation; and
- Encourage appropriate members and volunteers from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Promote and value diversity as outlined in the MEBC Committee of Management Charter

### **Recruiting staff and volunteers**

The Club takes the following steps to ensure best practice standards in the recruitment and screening of staff and volunteers:

- Interview and conduct referee checks on all Venue Manager appointments
- Committee members are required to have a current Working With Children's Check, and a Basketball Victoria Statutory Declaration/Member Protection Declaration. The Statutory Declaration needs to be completed at least every 2½ years.
- Committee members are required to read and sign the Child Safety Code of Conduct upon nomination at the Club's AGM
- Coaches are required to register as a coach on the Sporting Pulse database via the Club website. The registration process ensures that coaches agree to abide by the policies and procedures that govern the Club, including the EDJBA/Basketball Victoria Coaches Code of Conduct and the Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Coaches are also required to provide their Working With Children's Check details when registering as a coach and to sign a Basketball Victoria Statutory Declaration/Member Protection Declaration.
- Working with Children Checks are reviewed each season to monitor expiry dates
- We are proactively working towards collecting Working With Children's Check for Team Managers

### **Supporting staff and volunteers**

The MEBC seeks to attract and retain the best staff and volunteers. Support is provided so that people feel valued, respected and fairly treated. MEBC has developed a Child Safety Code of Conduct to provide guidance to staff and volunteers.

Further, all members of the MEBC are committed to abide by the EDJBA/Basketball Victoria's - Code of Conduct.

### **Reporting a child safety concern or complaint**

The MEBC has appointed Dr. Margaret Patrice Friars as Child Welfare Office with the specific responsibility for responding to any complaints made by staff, volunteers, parents or children. Dr Friars can be contacted by email, [patricefriars@gmail.com](mailto:patricefriars@gmail.com) or calling 0405 107 021. Our complaints process is outlined in the MEBC Parent Handbook

All members are expected to discuss any concerns that they may have about the welfare of a child **IMMEDIATELY** with the nominated Child Welfare Officer.

The Child Welfare Officer will ensure that the concerns/incidents reported to them remain confidential and that the identity of the person reporting the concern/incident is not revealed.

The Club's Child Welfare Officer will be required to report all the incidents noted by them to the appropriate authority at Basketball Victoria who will then ascertain whether or not the person/s involved in the incident play a role in the organisation and act accordingly.

### **Risk Management**

The MEBC recognise the importance of a risk management approach to minimising the potential for child abuse or harm to occur and use this to inform our policy, procedures and activity planning. In addition to general occupational health and safety risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse to our children. To reduce the risk of child abuse occurring, adults to whom this policy applies should avoid direct, unsupervised contact with children. For example, this should be a consideration when:

- using change room facilities;
- using accommodation or overnight stays;
- travel; or
- physical contact when coaching or managing children

MEBC has developed guidelines on physical contact with children. Refer to Attachment 11 of the MEBC Parent Handbook :[http://websites.sportstg.com/get\\_file.cgi?id=36100483](http://websites.sportstg.com/get_file.cgi?id=36100483)

### **Reviewing this policy**

This policy will be reviewed every two years and we undertake to seek views, comments and suggestions from children, parents, carers, staff and volunteers involved in the Club.

---