



Child-safe Policy

This policy guides employees, referees and volunteers on how to behave with children participating in our competitions.

In every respect when dealing with children, FootballSSG will comply with all requirements of the NSW Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013 and with the requirements of the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian, each of which may be amended or updated from time to time. As far as may be reasonably practical, at no time will a child be in the company of only one adult unless the adult is a parent or guardian of the child.

We encourage the active participation of children in our sporting competitions and, through that participation, their learning and development in sport.

We organise sporting competitions, guided by our Playing Rules which have been specifically developed to aid in the development of player's technical skills and spatial awareness. While the player's may not be aware, by playing the game they are actually being challenged to improve their playing ability. The game is actually teaching them how to better play the sport. Consequently, there is no need for training or coaching sessions outside of the game itself and we do not appoint coaches or organise coaching nor do we encourage teams to organise their own coaching outside of the game itself.

Children participating in our competitions are members of teams that are initially organised and assembled either by their parents or by FootballSSG.

Teams will be typically made up of eight (8) to ten (10) players and there are typically six (6) to eight (8) games being played at a venue at any given time. Participant children will therefore always be in the presence of dozens if not hundreds of parents who are typically spectating from the sideline of their child's game (ie - within 3 metres of the field).

Each children's team is required to have a volunteer manager, who will be a parent of one of the players. The team's parental group decide who will be the team's manager. Managers are primarily responsible for completing the Match Record Sheet, which provides a record of which players participated in a game, as well as, the final score in that game. Managers are also responsible for organising the substitutions of players throughout the course of a game.



Each game will be adjudicated by a referee whose primary responsibility is to ensure that games are conducted in keeping with our Playing Rules and, in so doing, ensuring that the participant's skills are developing.

Each venue will have a venue coordinator whose primary responsibility is to appoint referees to games and support them by answering any questions they may have about the Playing Rules, to ensure that games start and finish at the scheduled time and that match results are recorded correctly. The venue coordinator is the first point of contact for any question of any nature from referees, from participant children's parents or from adult-aged participants.

Each venue coordinator is supported by and acts under instructions given by the General Manager.

We welcome questions and feedback from the children's parents about any matter relating to their child, their team or the competition generally. We welcome questions and feedback from the children themselves where such feedback is given in the presence of their parent or guardian and we welcome questions and feedback from referees, adult-aged participants and third parties. Any question of any nature from participant children's parents, children, referee, adult-aged participants or from any third party received by a venue organiser and that the venue organiser feels they are not properly armed/informed to answer will be directed to the General Manager, which can be submitted via email to **info@footballssg.com**. Any concerns in relation to Child Protection can be raised with the General Manager via email to **info@footballssg.com**.

This policy will be communicated with parents of children participating in our competitions prior to the commencement of the competition season. It will be reviewed annually and communicated with administrative staff as changes occur and with venue coordinators and referees during our annual Referee's Briefing, in the lead up to our Spring competition, or with other such regularity as may be determined necessary as a result of any amendments to the NSW Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013 or the operations of FootballSSG.