



CHILD SAFE PARENTS & GUARDIANS GUIDE

KEEPING KIDS IN CRICKET SAFE
2022

The following Child Safe resource is provided as a reference only.

This document and its content is provided as a guide for your organisation as of July 2020. Your organisation should also consider referencing any information, documents and strategies that might be specifically required for your organisation and relevant to its circumstances, structure and operations.

The information contained in this document is general in nature and should not be considered or relied upon as a substitute for legal advice.

Please note that references in [square brackets] throughout this document should be tailored for your organisation's policies and procedures.

Cricket Victoria recommends using this resource with due consideration and consulting a child safe expert or legal advisor to assist with any questions.

Child Safe Parents & Guardians Guide 2022

Date created:	August 2022	
Audience:	Parents/guardians of kids involved in Victorian Cricket, Associations & Clubs Victorian Regions, Associations and Clubs in order to distribute to parents/guardians of kids involved in cricket	
Version:	2022:1	
Purpose of Document:	Summarise and simplify what parents and guardians need to know about all of our responsibilities to keep kids in cricket safe	
Actions:	<p>Read and understand</p> <p>Ask and ensure that parents/guardians acknowledge that they have read and understand Australian Cricket's 'Looking After Our Kids' Code of Behaviour for Affiliated Associations and Clubs</p> <p>Encourage others to read and understand</p>	
Review:	August 2023 if not prior	
Cricket Victoria Contact:	Laura Johnston	
Authorised by:	David White GM Community Cricket Cricket Victoria	
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Other relevant documents: Please see the [Cricket Victoria Child Safeguarding](#) webpage.

OVERVIEW

The Australian [Cricket Child Safety Framework](#) sets out the responsibilities that all Victorian Associations, Clubs and Cricket Participants (including parents and guardians) have to keep kids in cricket safe. It consists of:

- Australian Cricket’s Commitment Statement for Safeguarding Children and Young People;
- Australian Cricket’s Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People; and
- Australian Cricket’s Looking After Our Kids Code of Behaviour.
- Looking After Our Kids Action Plan.

This guide has some helpful information for parents and guardians who help keep our Kids safe in cricket, including about having conversations, eSafety

WHY YOUR KIDS’ SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY:

1. We love our game and your kids playing our game. We want them to keep playing cricket. Yet we realise that they have to FEEL safe to enjoy cricket and want to keep playing.
2. All kids have a right to feel safe, be involved and have a voice in decisions that affect them*.
3. Society has changed, and with it, higher standards of behaviour are now expected – of all of us. Sometimes, even though we have good intentions, others’ perception of behaviour is different. So we want to help you to understand what needs to happen now to protect your kids in cricket, as well as to help you.

WHAT WE’RE TRYING TO DO:

1. We’re here to help. Victoria has legislative requirements and mandatory standards in place about child safety that were updated again from 1 July 2022. We can’t ignore those. But we want to make it as simple as possible for you, your kids and all of our Victorian cricket organisations.
2. We’ve developed these resources for you to explain how we keep your kids safe in cricket. They explain what we need to do and where to find help or further information. The best place to start to understand all this, keep our kids feeling safe and enjoying cricket is this Parents & Guardians Guide.

SOME CHILD SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS:

You know your kids best. Also, our schools now often teach their students about safety, boundaries with adults and that it’s OK to speak up if they don’t feel comfortable or safe around certain adults. Yet you can also help us to reinforce the key messages we have for kids about child safety in cricket, just as in life.

The three key messages we have in our “Kids Guide to Keeping Safe in Cricket” are:

1. Cricket should be fun, safe and enjoyable.
2. You should never feel uncomfortable around others in cricket, particularly adults.
3. If you don’t feel safe or comfortable, it’s OK to speak up. We want you to tell an adult that you trust – whether that’s your Mum or Dad, guardian, coach or another member of your cricket club or family.

We know that kids are more likely to speak up if they feel valued and are listened to in an authentic and genuine way. So please help us to keep the conversations open with your kids about how they are feeling when they are part of our cricket community.

SOME CONVERSATION TIPS TO TALK ABOUT SAFETY WITH YOUR KIDS:

It's not always comfortable talking to kids about how they are feeling in our cricket community or other environments. The delivery of conversations is just as important as the message or content itself. You're more likely to engage with kids about tricky topics if the conversation is calm, non-judgmental and open. You can do this by:

- Listening carefully to them;
- Be open to hearing more;
- Showing empathy; and
- Letting them know that they're doing the right thing by talking.

To open up a conversation with your child about safety in cricket,, it's important to choose the right time. Sometimes, you may get more information in casual interactions, such as:

- when driving in the car;
- walking the dog; or
- washing the dishes together.

You could also try using an example that you have heard of with another kid and whether they had seen or heard anything similar. For example, "another parent or guardian at the club told me that they were worried about how the coach is talking to their child. Have you seen or heard anything similar?".

IF YOU NEED HELP

If ever your child tells you that they are not happy, comfortable or safe playing cricket, [please tell an appropriate person in cricket such as your Club's Child Safety Officer or a trusted Club or Association senior person](#). Then we'll make sure that any issue raised is dealt with appropriately and in line with our Child Safety Framework.

If you reasonably believe[^] that any child is in immediate danger from Child Abuse or is in a life threatening situation, please call 000 to speak with police. You can also contact services such as Parent Helpline, NAPCAN, Lifeline, Kids Helpline and the Raising Children Network. Then advise the Club's Child Safety Officer or trusted Club or Association senior person of the issue and action taken, so the Club or Association is able to take any further steps required under the Child Safety Framework.

*Australian Government National Child Office for Child Safety Complaint Handling Guide: Upholding the rights of children and young people – A Reference Guide, 2019.

Commission for Children and Young People – Empowerment and Participation of Children Tip Sheet

[^] A reasonable belief is one that a reasonable person in the same position would have formed the belief on the same grounds.

E-Safety Guide for Parents & Guardians

We know that everyone uses the internet and social media to connect. This can make communicating with others really easy, but also opens up many new risks for everyone to keep in mind. This resource collates extracts and provides adaptations of some of the more practical and specific eSafety tips for:

- Parents
- Children and Young People
- Sporting Organisations/Clubs when delivering online training or forums for children and young people.

1. Types of Online Risks

We all use many different platforms and apps when we are online. Everyone, including parents, kids and those running clubs are trying to find the best way to be online safely.

We know that being online can result in:

- Cyberbullying;
- Grooming;
- Exposure to, or engagement with, pornography or sexually explicit images;
- Privacy breaches; or
- Scams targeting children.

While abuse to children occurring in the physical world is more often than not perpetrated by people that children know and trust, in the online world, it is the opposite – the overwhelming majority of abuse is perpetrated by people that children do not know.

According to *Australian Cybersafety expert Susan McLean, 80% of online abuse also has an offline component. These days, kids can be on a number of online platforms that heighten the risks of harm or abuse to children, including:

- a) Social Media – eg, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Houseparty, TikTok;
- b) Games – eg, Fortnite, Minecraft;
- c) Chat rooms/apps or Bulletin Boards – eg, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger;
- d) Email; and
- e) Video messaging and conferencing services – eg, Zoom, MS Teams, GoToMeetings, Facetime.

2. Reducing the Risks

There are a number of things that can be done to reduce online risks for children. They include:

- a) Education - as to the risks, indicators of harm, the cyber world generally, child safeguarding policies and procedures, as well as strategies available, such as online controls.
- b) Ongoing communication – normalising discussion about the online world, risks and strategies by keeping open lines of communication.
- c) Accessing resources – finding and using the best resources for your organisation.
- d) Implementing controls, policies and strategies to reduce risks – ensuring that any club/organisation-based platforms are “filtered” to be as safe as possible and that policies exist to guide online communication with kids.
- e) Responding to and reporting actual or potential risks of online harm to children – knowing what to do if dangers or harm arises and who to report it to.

*Susan McLean (Child Safe Australia), 2020, Interview and Q&A with Susan McClean (webinar)

eSafety Tips for Parents & Guardians

Victoria Police Online Safety Advice Extract

1. Steps for improving your child's safety:

- a) Talk to your kids about being safe online and why it's important.
- b) Be aware of the programs and files children use.
- c) Consider installing filtering software on computers used by young people.
- d) Be aware of the programs and files that are on your family's computers.
- e) Place the computer in a public area of the home, such as a living room.
- f) Ensure you are able to access your child's email and randomly check the contents.
- g) Check your phone bill for unusual outgoing calls or consider using a 'caller ID' device to identify incoming calls.
- h) Discuss online safety with your child's school, public library or anywhere that you believe your child accesses the Internet.
- i) Make sure children are aware of some of the issues involved with spending time on the Internet.
- j) Show children what sites they can go to and what information they can send out.
- k) Sit down with your children and discuss the issues.

2. Risk factors

The following may be signs that your child has been targeted by an online predator:

- a) You find pornography on your child's computer.
- b) Your child is receiving phone calls from people you don't know or is calling numbers you don't recognise.
- c) Your child is spending a large amount of time on the Internet.
- d) Your child is receiving gifts or mail from people you do not know.
- e) When you enter the room your child changes the screen or turns the computer off.
- f) Your child is becoming withdrawn or displaying behavioural problems.

3. Advice for your children

When talking with your children about online safety let them know it's not always a safe place and that they should:

- a) Not to send a picture of themselves to someone they do not know.
- b) Never place a full profile and picture of themselves anywhere on the Internet.
- c) If using a Facebook page or similar, ensure your child blocks everyone's access to the page and only allows friends to have access.
- d) Never give out personal information including their name, home address, phone number or school.
- e) Never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they have chatted with on the Internet.

Guide for Sporting Organisations - Online Training Delivery for Children & Young People (presenters guide)

Adaption of Football Victoria - online do's and don'ts

1. CONSENT

DO

- a) Obtain written permission (e.g. by email) for the child or young person (CYP) to participate in online training directly from their parent/guardian and retain on file. Make sure the CYP also consents to taking part.
- b) Advise the CYP and their parents/guardians that a parent/guardian must (recommended)/should be in the room for training sessions [where possible].
- c) Provide parents/guardians with the name of the person leading the training session and his/her credentials, including currency of their Working with Children Check and a way to raise concerns via email or phone details.

DON'T

- d) Rely on a CYP advising you that their parent/guardian has granted permission.
- e) Engage in any form of communication a parent/guardian has not given express permission for their CYP to participate in or is unscheduled.
- f) Publish recordings of CYP to social media channels without express written parent/guardian consent and the consent of the CYP.

2. COMMUNICATION/PRESENTATION

DO:

- a) Limit online communication to issues directly related to delivering online training, such as advising the time of a session or, when conducting the session, to explaining drills and providing instruction.
- b) Copy all communications to a child's parent/guardian. Where this is not possible, include a relevant association/club contact (ie. Child Safe Officer)
- c) Ensure all training sessions are led by a person engaged by your club with a current Working With Children Check, which you have on file.
- d) Clearly communicate expectations to CYP and their parents/guardians. Eg, who is leading the session, what sessions consist of, what equipment or space will be needed.
- e) Ensure that appropriate security features are being used for video calls. Eg:
 - o lock online forums so that they can only be accessed using a password that has been distributed via email to participating players.
 - o Use the waiting room function so that people can only enter as you approve them.
 - o Mute participants on entry.
 - o Disable the record function.
 - o Adjust settings for one way interaction where possible (kids can see you but you can't see them).
- f) Make sure all presenters know how to apply platform security and privacy settings to online classes or sessions. Adults should know how to prevent uninvited attendees accessing online sessions, how to block video, audio or chat functions, and how to avoid exposing personal information.
- g) Encourage presenters to practise the session before running it.
- h) Use organisation/club accounts for coaches to use (eg. Zoom) as opposed to personal accounts.
- i) Presenters should present from a common area eg, living room rather than a private space eg bedroom.
- j) Keep communication professional and avoid using emojis to CYP in electronic chat functions in case they are misinterpreted.

- k) If needing to share something on screen, share individual applications rather than your entire screen.
- l) Disable email alerts and other notifications whilst presenting.
- m) Ensure that presentation material to CYP is reviewed by another official or more senior person in your organisation or club where possible.
- n) Try to make sure that there are at least two officials/club or organisation representatives on each online forum. This also allows one official/representative to monitor the chat function and/or questions during the forum and ensure that it is appropriate.
- o) Keep to the allocated times for the online forum.

DON'T

- a) Add as a friend, accept friend requests from, follow or engage with CYP on social media, video-conferencing or gaming platforms or via other communication channels outside of training.
- b) Communicate with CYP using chat rooms, social networking sites, game sites or instant messaging from personal profiles or accounts.
- c) Engage in one-on-one sessions or communications with CYP. All communications should be with the team or group as a whole.
- d) Use any communications to promote unauthorised 'social' activity or to arrange unauthorised contact.
- e) Communicate anything (verbally, in writing or via images or footage) that a reasonable observer could view as being of a sexual or inappropriate nature, or which suggests the use of tobacco, alcohol or prohibited drugs.
- f) Allow CYP to share their screens or other files during/using the online forum.
- g) Request a CYP to keep a communication secret from their parents.
- h) Require attendance at online training – if a CYP does not wish to participate or their parent/guardian does not consent, that is the individual choice and they should not be discriminated against or excluded on that basis.
- i) Record training sessions unless express and informed consent has been given by the CYP's parent/guardian for a specified organisation/club-approved purpose (eg. for posting on the organisation/club's official social media channels, with consent). Any recordings should be deleted once the purpose has been expended.

Note: If a CYP decides not to participate or their parent/guardian does not consent to their participation in video training, consider sending a training program with the drills and exercises from each session so that the CYP can continue to train at home.

3. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- a) Ensure that the online training is conducted in a safe area that is free of hazards.
- b) Wear suitable and appropriate clothing and footwear.
Note: Inappropriate clothing/footwear or a training area that is not clear of hazards may affect insurance.
- c) Check venue for isolated areas or places that may not be easily accessible to others, both by visual or physical access
- d) Consider how easy and safe it is to access the venue. For example, is there enough lighting? Are there lots of cars around? Etc).

4. COMPLIANCE

- a) Abide by applicable codes of behaviour.
- b) Abide by rules issued by the government in relation to social distancing.
- c) Consider random online training 'spot checks' or regular moderation to ensure that they are safe.
- d) Remind participants that the standard sport/club policies will apply to these sessions and participants are expected to behave appropriately and treat their fellow participants and club staff accordingly.
- e) Report any inappropriate behaviour of CYP or presenters of online forums to the relevant senior person within your organisation/club.

5. RESPONDING TO ESAFETY CONCERNS

The Office of eSafety provides support for children and young people to report online abuse:

- Cyberbullying: eSafety can help remove material that seriously threatens, intimidates, harasses or humiliates a child or young person under 18. eSafety also works with parents, schools and police to stop further cyberbullying.
- Image-based abuse: if someone shares or threatens to share an intimate image or video of a person without their consent, eSafety can help to have it removed. In some cases, eSafety can also impose civil penalties against the abuser or the platform they used.

If you are unsure if something should be reported, contact your Club or Association child safe contact or visit the Cricket Victoria "Reporting a Concern" page at <https://www.cricketvictoria.com.au/clubs-support/report-a-concern/>

Kids' Guide to being Safe in Cricket

YOUR CLUB'S CONTACT FOR KIDS

Name:

Phone Number:

Three Important Messages for Kids

The three key messages to always keep in mind are:

1. Cricket should be fun, safe and enjoyable.
2. You should never feel uncomfortable around others in cricket, particularly adults.
3. If you don't feel safe or comfortable, it's OK to speak up. We want you to tell an adult that you trust – whether that's your Mum or Dad, guardian, coach or another member of your cricket club or family.

Your rights

We believe that all kids involved in our sport should:

- Feel comfortable;
- Feel safe;
- Be able to contact your parents, guardians or others at any time if you feel unsafe;
- Be provided with clear directions and feedback so you can change your behaviour if you have broken any rules or misbehaved.
- NOT be hurt in any way; and
- Have a say and be listened to about cricket activities.

Our Commitment to Kids in Cricket

Cricket in Victoria now has a Child Protection Commitment Statement that aims to make sure that kids are protected from harm and abuse. When involved in cricket, we want it to be enjoyable for everyone. So, we'll try to make sure that activities are suitable for your age and development and are led by appropriately qualified people.

Cricket in Victoria commits to:

- Doing our best to make sure that you are protected from harm;
- Looking after you when you take part in cricket in Victoria;
- Obtaining permission in writing from your parent/guardian before we can:
 - take you on an excursion;
 - arrange overnight stays or camps; and/or
 - provide transport to another location.
- Making sure there are enough appropriate adults around to look after kids at cricket.
- Trying to make sure that kids are not left alone with staff, coaches, volunteers or officials where they can't be seen by other adults – in person and online (see the Guide for Kids – eSafety Tips);

- Trying to make sure that adults in cricket only do what their role allows. This means that they cannot be employed for looking after you or visiting you at your home unless with the permission of your Parent/Guardian. They are not allowed to friend you on Facebook, take photos or footage of you for Instagram, YouTube, Tik-Tok, Snap Chat or other forms of social media. Communication between you adults in cricket must be regarding your involvement in cricket, unless your Parent/Guardian has given their permission for you to have contact with them at a particular time;
- Guiding kids fairly, respectfully and appropriate to their age and background;
- Reporting and responding to any incidents of abuse or neglect towards kids who are involved in cricket; and
- Where and when possible, our Cricket staff, volunteers and officials wearing a uniform and/or having an appropriate name badge visible only when on duty.
- Being fair and making sure everyone gets to have a turn, no matter what their background or ability.

What to do if you have concerns:

- If at any stage you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried, you must let someone know. This could be your parent/guardian or a trusted adult in cricket know what has happened – they will want to support you.
- All you need to do is tell someone about what happened and they will do their best to make sure that you feel safe and protected from harm.
- You will not get in trouble for speaking up about something that worries you or makes you feel unsafe.

Responsibilities of Kids in Cricket

When you are involved in cricket, you also have some responsibilities. These include:

- Letting a trusted adult know if you are unhappy with how you are being treated or you don't feel safe;
- Treating all others with respect;
- Following the rules when involved in cricket;
- Remembering that there are others involved in cricket. You are certainly free to choose your own friends. However, don't stop other kids from enjoying and participating in cricket; and
- Listening to others and respecting their opinions.

Youth Central Online eSafety Tips for Children and Young People Victoria Police Extract

PROTECT YOUR PRIVATE INFORMATION

Only give your mobile phone number and email address to people you can trust. Think about the information you have in your online profiles - if it includes your home address, your mobile number and a photo of you, it makes you very easy to find.

And when it comes to things like bank details or credit card numbers, you should make double-sure that you don't give that information out without thinking about the possible negative consequences first.

KEEP YOUR PASSWORDS TO YOURSELF

Never share your password - ever. Make sure your password is at least eight characters long, a mix of letters and numbers and not the name of your favourite band, pet or football team.

PHOTOS

Think twice before sending or posting a photo. A private joke can become a public embarrassment in one click. Once it's out there you can't take it back and it can travel a long way very quickly.

STRANGERS

Be aware that strangers online might not be who they say they are. Don't engage and don't share private information.

MODERATE COMMENTS

If you've got a blog or webpage on any online platform, make sure you closely watch and moderate comments. You might consider publishing a blog comment policy, so people know what's okay to discuss and why you have deleted their comments. Please note that you may be held responsible for someone else's comments if you allow them to post something that is abusive, harmful or untrue.

ARGUMENTS

If an online argument is turning into a flame war, let it go. Step away, take a few deep breaths. Think about if you would still want this post to be online tomorrow for others to read.

IS IT TIME TO ACT?

No matter how careful you are, sometimes, bad things happen. It might be time to talk to an adult or friend that you trust if you are:

- Having a friend pass on a private online conversation to someone else without your permission
- Being harassed via messages, Facebook, Twitter, email or in-game chat
- Being tricked into giving out a secret online
- Having an embarrassing picture of you posted or sent around online
- Being signed up to receive unwanted emails, like pornography, by someone else
- Having someone break into your account or steal your password
- Finding out that the person you're emailing, texting or messaging isn't the person you thought they were
- Having someone pretend to be you online
- Being entered in an online poll or contest without your knowledge
- Having someone post nasty comments on your guestbook, blog, or on a discussion board

WHAT TO DO

If you find yourself on the wrong end of some suspect, nasty, or even illegal, online activity, there are steps you can take to start sorting out your digital issues:

Let Someone Know

Tell someone you trust, like a close friend, parent or another adult.

Contact a support service such as Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800) or eSafety. Don't retaliate or reply - this only encourages the other person.

You can also access help through Victoria Legal Aid's Below the Belt Android app, which has advice about things like sexting and cyberbullying.

If the activity relates to cricket, you can speak with your Club or Association contact.

Change Your Password

If you think someone has been accessing your email or social media accounts, change your password and see if things settle down. Make sure your new password is at least eight characters long, a mix of letters and numbers and not the name of your favourite food, pet or football team.

Block or Report

If the bullying is happening via social media, you can use your account settings to block the accounts being used to bully you. If this doesn't stop the bullying, you can report the bullying to the platform you are using (i.e. Facebook or TicTok), the [eSafety Commissioner](#), your Internet Service Provider or mobile phone provider to ask for more advice.

If you are receiving threatening messages and feel in danger, you should call 000 and report it to the police. You can also report any non-urgent concerns, where you are worried but don't feel you are in immediate danger, to the police via 13 14 14.

Save The Evidence

Learn how to keep records of offending online conversations, messages and images. To do this you can print out emails and web pages or take screen captures.

HELPFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

- [Below the Belt: Sex, Selfies & Cyberbullying](#) - A free Android app with info about laws on sex and consent, sexting and cyberbullying.
- [eSafety](#) - The Australian Government's eSafety site is designed to help empower you to be safe online.
- [ThinkUKnow](#) - Helpful site full of tips on how to stay in control on the web.
- [ehheadspace](#) - ehheadspace is a confidential, free and secure space where young people 12 - 25 or their family can chat, email or speak on the phone with a qualified youth mental health professional.
- [Lifeline](#) - If you or someone you know need someone to talk to, for any reason, about anything, you can call Lifeline on 13 11 14, 24 hours.
- [Kids Helpline - 1800 55 1800](#) - Kids Helpline is a free, 24-hour counselling service for young people aged 5-25 years. Counselling is offered by phone, email and over the web.
- [Tagged](#) - An Australian film about a group of high-school friends who post a rumour about a rival and spark a chain reaction that leaves no one untouched. Will these friends avoid being tagged forever?