

Juniors in Croquet

Croquet New South Wales is encouraging the participation of junior players across the state. It is also committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Children in croquet.

Croquet NSW has signed up to the Sport Integrity Framework through the Australian Croquet Association, which includes the [Child Safeguarding Policy](#).

We remind members that all Clubs are bound by these policies to ensure that junior players (especially those under 18years old) are able to participate in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment.

All coaches are required to have up to date Working With Children Checks (WWCC)/Working With Vulnerable People in the ACT (WWVP). Please ensure you advise the Coaching Co-ordinator to keep your WWCC/WWVP accreditation up to date. You are not able to undertake coaching without this accreditation, and certainly not coaching juniors.

Clubs which have junior members need to ensure they have procedures and protocols outlining how the Child Safeguarding Policy is implemented at your Club.

Chatswood Club has drafted a Policy for their Club which provides a useful model. This is available on the CNSW website. This includes supervision of children, communication protocols, reporting requirements, and the responsibility of juniors.

Croquet NSW is working with the ACA and Sport Integrity Australia to provide further guidance and training to assist Clubs to understand and implement Child Safe Practices.

Sport Integrity Australia offers [online learning](#) for club members. It also has a very practical brochure listing [Child Safe Practices: Dos and Don'ts](#).

The **Office of the Children's Guardian** has released a free Child Safe Self-Assessment for child-related organisations to assess how well they are implementing the 10 Child Safe Standards.

You can [access the self-assessment](#) on the Office of the Children's Guardian website now.

The introduction to the Child Safeguarding Policy is worth reading and an extract appears below:

- *The Australian Croquet Association has a zero-tolerance policy to child abuse and neglect in any form.*
- *The Australian Croquet Association is committed to ensuring that everyone involved in Croquet and Gateball is educated and informed of their responsibilities to protect and look after Children.*
- *All Children have the right to feel safe and protected from all forms of abuse, harm, and neglect. Children have the right to take part in sport in a safe, positive, and enjoyable environment. This Policy is part of the Australian Croquet Association's proactive and preventative approach to upholding its commitment to the safety, wellbeing, participation and empowerment of all Children who access Croquet and/or Gateball.*

- *This Policy sets out the standards of behaviour expected of those involved in croquet and the behaviours that are not acceptable ('Prohibited Conduct').*
- *This Policy imposes obligations on the Australian Croquet Association and Croquet and Gateball Organisations in relation to responding to allegations of Prohibited Conduct, including by reporting suspected Child Abuse to the appropriate authorities, and to implementing a commitment to child safety and child-safe practices, including recruitment and screening of staff and volunteers.*

If you have any queries about junior membership at your club, or if you have some experience you would like to share, contact the Secretary@croquet-nsw.org or the State Co-ordinator of Junior Coaching geofmcd@gmail.com.