



GUIDE FOR CLUBS EMPOWERING & INVOLVING KIDS TO KEEP KIDS SAFE

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 August 2021. 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.

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

WHY EMPOWER AND INVOLVE KIDS IN OUR CLUBS?

Put simply, kids are the future of cricket. We want them in our great game to grow, develop skills and be part of a community that we love.

Kids refers to anyone under the age of 18, and may be referenced as “children” or “children and young people” in other documents and policies.

BENEFITS OF FOCUSING ON KEEPING KIDS SAFE AND EMPOWERING AND INVOLVING KIDS

- Our kids are safe and will stay safe and happy, enjoying cricket and telling others about it.
- Kids that feel safe and valued will join clubs and stay in cricket.
- More kids in cricket means more members and participants for clubs, contributing to the health and prosperity of clubs and our game.

These days, we know a lot more about how important it is to keep kids safe from harm. In Victoria, we have Child Safe Standards that require us to promote the participation and empowerment of kids (Standard 7). In keeping with this, Cricket Victoria and its clubs operate under the [Australian Cricket Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People](#). All clubs, along with Cricket Victoria, have committed to keeping our kids in cricket safe and:

“empower[ing] children and young people to act and respond to behaviour that is not acceptable or inappropriate”.

The **three key messages** we have in our [“Kids Guide to Keeping Kids 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 a member of your club or family.

To be aware of any issues with kids' safety, to improve safeguarding in clubs and for kids to be empowered to speak up, we need to:

- Find out what they are thinking and feeling; and
- Encourage them to engage with other kids and adults about safety - and other things too!

This can happen organically. But in Victoria, we want to make sure that our kids are OK in cricket. We want to engage and involve them more than we ever have.

So, this guide has been created to help our clubs to engage even more with kids to ensure that kids are safe, they feel safe and they feel empowered to speak up about their safety.

In this resource, you'll find tips and suggestions about language to use with kids, questions to ask, activities to try and even a guide to run focus groups for kids in your Club. This should be done in collaboration with parents, ensuring they're informed and they understand what the Club is trying to achieve. For more about empowering kids, see this [Fact Sheet](#).

WHAT HAVE WE FOUND OUT FROM KIDS IN VICTORIAN CRICKET?

In 2021, Cricket Victoria ran focus groups in conjunction with some of our regional and metropolitan clubs. The focus groups were held with kids in cricket – in the 12 and over age ('**Older Kids**') group and in the under 12 age group ('**Younger Kids**').

The focus groups aimed to find out from the kids how they felt about their safety in their clubs. They were designed to be very interactive – to encourage as much input as possible on a range of things, such as:

- a) what being safe (and unsafe) means and where they feel safe (and less safe) in their clubs and why;
- b) what they would do if they, or one of their friends, didn't feel safe; and
- c) what more they could do – and their clubs can do – to involve and empower them to speak up about safety and other topics more broadly.

The focus groups were heaps of fun to run, very informative and taught us a lot. From them, we now know that kids in cricket:

- more than anything, just want to have fun;
- understand more than we might think about emotions and the behaviour of other kids;
- want to be heard, valued and included;
- like to be involved – particularly older kids, who want to make a difference and give back to the club that has meant so much and has given so much to them;
- have great suggestions for their clubs!
- have trust in each other and will often talk to their teammates if they aren't feeling good or are unsure about something;
- if concerns arise, will talk to a trusted adult, rather than a designated role such as a Child Safety Officer or other administrator who they don't know as well; and
- generally trust and will talk to adults who listen authentically and value their views.

We also tested out some ways that our clubs can engage with kids more about their safety and, as an output, have confidence that kids in their club felt safe and empowered to speak up. Read on to find out more!

SUGGESTIONS FOR CLUBS TO INVOLVE AND EMPOWER KIDS

Throughout the focus groups that Cricket Victoria conducted, the kids gave us some great ideas to engage and involve them with their club more. Most are easy to implement and, for others, clubs could check with their committees, members or parents to see who might be able to help out to, for example, run an interactive focus group for kids. Kids love it!

Coaches are often kids' most regular and impactful point of contact in clubs. So, it is critical that clubs engage coaches with off-field club goals such as:

- the importance of kids being safe and having fun in cricket, as well as improving and developing;
- the questions they can ask of kids to check in as to how they are going; as well as
- encouraging kids to participate in the Club and speak up with suggestions for improvement and if they have any concerns.

Here are some suggestions:

1. **Coach Engagement** – talk to coaches about the benefits of engaging kids about their safety in and around the Club, what Cricket Victoria has found through the workshops with kids, along with how they can encourage kids to speak up and be more involved with the Club. Share this Guide with them as “food for thought”.
2. **Make safe and fun messages VISIBLE to Kids, Members and Parents/Guardians** – the key messages for kids - *being safe, having fun, enjoying cricket, never feeling uncomfortable, and telling a trusted adult if you aren't feeling safe* – should be displayed prominently around your Club. Use the [Cricket Australia posters](#) or, even better, get kids in your Club to make their own posters. See **Resource 3** at the back of this Guide on how to go about this.
3. **Survey** - run an end of season survey to ask older kids (12 years and over) and parents/guardians of younger kids about how the season went. Suggest to parents/guardians that they complete the survey with their kids. This could be done via tools such as Survey Monkey and a link posted through the Club's Facebook page. Include questions such as:
 - a. Did you enjoy the season? (Y/N)
 - b. What did you enjoy about it? (Options and Free Text Box)
 - c. Do you always feel safe at the Club? (Y/N and Free Text Box – “If no, please state why”)
 - d. Do you feel included in Club activities? (Y/N and Free Text Box – “If no, please state why”)
 - e. Would you like to be able to provide more input and ideas for the Club? (Y/N)
 - f. How could the Club involve you more and ask for your input? (Free text box)
 - g. What else can the Club do to make it an even better season next year? (Free Text Box)
4. **Suggestion Box** – place a suggestion box somewhere appropriate in the clubrooms that can be accessed by kids. Ensure that coaches encourage kids to put their suggestions in the box and nominate a Committee Member to regularly check the box and inform others on the Committee.
5. **Run a Kids Workshop** – use the Kids Workshop Facilitator Guide (see **Resource 2**) - to run a workshop for kids at your Club to get their input about safety at the Club, their suggestions for the Club to improve, and how else the Club might attract more members. They have some fantastic ideas!