

Child Safe Information

Bellerive Junior Soccer Club Inc – Responsible Person and Parent Resource

The Bellerive Junior Soccer Club Inc (BJSC) is committed to child safety and your role is essential in ensuring that children are safe and enjoy their time playing soccer with the BJSC. This covers training, game day, and any other event that you or the club organises that relate to your team. These child safety guidelines are provided for you to ensure that you understand your role and responsibility to create a secure environment where children are safe and protected.

Linked resources

- Code of Conduct – ERJSA website Parent Information Tab
- Strong Families Safe Kids – Tasmanian government website
- Mandatory Reporting of child abuse or harm – Hobart Community Legal Service Inc.

What is Child Safety?

- Child safety refers to the measures taken to protect young participants from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and to promote their well-being and development.

Importance of Child Safety

- Ensures the safety and well-being of participants.
- Promotes a positive and supportive environment.
- Builds trust among participants, parents, and the community.

Principles

- The best interests of the child are the primary consideration.
- All children have the right to protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Everyone has a responsibility to safeguard children.

Recognising Signs of Abuse and Neglect

Types of Abuse

- Physical abuse: Intentional use of physical force that can result in injury.
- Emotional abuse: Actions that harm a child's self-esteem or emotional well-being.
- Sexual abuse: Any sexual activity with a child.
- Neglect: Failure to provide for a child's basic needs.

Key Indicators

- Physical abuse: Unexplained injuries, bruises, or burns.
- Emotional abuse: Excessive withdrawal, fear, or anxiety.
- Sexual abuse: Inappropriate sexual behaviour or knowledge.
- Neglect: Poor hygiene, malnutrition, or unattended medical needs.

Coach Behaviours

- Be aware of the mandatory reporting requirements relating to child abuse or harm (Strong Families Safe Kids and Hobart Community Legal Service websites for further information).
- Treat all children with respect and dignity.
- Be a positive role model.
- Avoid one-on-one situations with children in private settings.
- Never use physical punishment or inappropriate language.
- Ensure all players participate for fun and learning.
- Never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Be reasonable in your demands on a player's time, energy, and enthusiasm.
- Always operate within the rules and spirit of the game and teach your players to do the same.
- Display control and respect to all involved in the sport.
- Allowing players to play and learn from their own mistakes.
- Ensure fair play and provide equal game time to all players.

Prohibited Behaviours

- Physical or verbal abuse.
- Inappropriate touching or gestures.
- Engaging in any form of bullying or harassment.

Parent, Guardian, and Spectator Behaviours

- Be aware of the mandatory reporting requirements relating to child abuse or harm (Strong Families Safe Kids and Hobart Community Legal Service websites for further information).
- Avoid coaching your child during training sessions and games.
- Do not interfere with training sessions unless otherwise asked; stay clear of training areas.
- Cheer on and always encourage players, even the opposition, and applaud good soccer all-around.
- Remember that children play soccer for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to participate but do not force them.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do the same.
- Promote fair play and a positive environment.
- Respect the decisions of the Match Officials.
- Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of every person regardless of their race, colour, religion, language, ability, politics, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin.
- Do not engage in the use of violence in any form.
- Do not engage in discrimination, harassment, or abuse in any form.
- Do not enter the field of play or its surrounds without lawful authority.
- Conduct yourself in a manner that enhances the reputation and goodwill of the Eastern Region Junior Soccer Association, Football Tasmania (FT), Football Australia (FA), and soccer generally.
- Support fair play and the enjoyment of the game for all participants.

Venue Safety

- Ensuring Physical Safety
- Conduct regular inspections of the venue to identify and mitigate potential hazards.
- Ensure all play areas are safe and properly maintained.

Reporting Procedures

- Immediate danger: If a child is in immediate danger, call emergency services.
- Non-emergency concerns: Report to the club for further guidance
admin@bellerivejsc.org.au including detailed information identify what occurred or you have observed, the child's name and details, along with any action you have taken.

All reports will be handled confidentially, and the BJSC will seek to provide appropriate support to those who report concerns.

Contact Information

For any questions or further information, please contact the officers of the association – President, Vice President, Treasurer, and/or Secretary on admin@bellerivejsc.org.au.