

# Mooloolaba Yacht Club



## Child Safety Policy and Safety Code of Conduct

The Mooloolaba Yacht Club (“MYC”) is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people associated with our sport. We support the rights of the child and will act without hesitation to ensure a child safe environment is always maintained.

We also support the rights and well-being of our staff and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants.

### Suitable Employees and Volunteers

The MYC will ensure that the organisation takes all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children (in prescribed positions). **All MYC employees, volunteers and members who may be involved in the care or supervision of persons under 18 years, must have obtained a current Queensland Blue Card linked to the MYC.** Blue Cards for volunteers are free and can be applied for online through the [Queensland Blue Card Services](#). Volunteer Blue Cards are free; however, you need to be linked to an organisation to have the fee waived.

The MYC will ensure that employees, volunteers, instructors, coaches and administrative staff who work with children or their records have ongoing supervision, support, and training such that their performance is developed and enhanced to promote the establishment and maintenance of a child-safe environment.

### Report and Respond Appropriately to Suspected Abuse and Neglect

The MYC will ensure that volunteers and employees are able to identify and respond to children at risk of harm. The MYC will make all volunteers and employees aware of their responsibilities under respective state laws if they have suspicion on reasonable grounds that a child has been or is being abused or neglected. In addition to any legal obligation, if any person feels another person or organisation bound by this policy is acting inappropriately towards a child or is breaching the Code of Conduct set out below they should complete an incident report and report it to the appointed Child Safety Officer (CSO) to be forwarded to the appropriate external authorities.

## Code of Conduct

This code of conduct includes details of acceptable and unacceptable behaviours in dealing with children.

### Purpose

- It assists with the protection of children from abuse and neglect; and
- provides clarity to staff, contractors and volunteers who work with children by clarifying acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.
- MYC staff, contractors and volunteers must observe this code of conduct and accept responsibility for immediately reporting any breach of this code to MYC’s Child Safety Officer or management team.

- All MYC staff and volunteers are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

## **Positive obligations**

MYC staff and volunteers are responsible for supporting the safety and well-being of children by:

- always adhering to MYC's Child Safety Policy;
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children participating in MYC programs from abuse and neglect;
- treating children and young people with respect;
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are reporting that they or another child has been abused and/or are worried about their safety or the safety of others;
- ensuring as far as practicable that an adult (other than a parent) is not left alone with a child;
- reporting any allegations of child abuse in accordance with MYC's Child Protection Policy; and
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, taking steps as quickly as possible to ensure that the child or children concerned are safe.

## **Unacceptable behaviour**

MYC staff and volunteers must not:

- develop 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, by offering gifts or giving special treatment to specific children);
- engage in any form of 'sexual behaviour' with, or in the presence of, children or young people;
- take any disciplinary action against a child or young person involving physical punishment or any form of treatment that could reasonably be considered as degrading, cruel, frightening or humiliating;
- exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (for example: touching their genital area, buttocks or breasts);
- assist a child with activities of a personal nature that the child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes;
- engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children (for example, personal social activities);
- use inappropriate language in the presence of children;
- express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children;
- discriminate against any child, including because of culture, race, ethnicity or disability;
- have contact with a child outside of sailing without guardian consent (for example, social functions or child minding);
- supply alcohol or drugs (including tobacco) to children and young people participating in sailing;

- use electronic communication (email, text messages, twitter etc) with a child or young person other than in connection with MYC programs (for example sending e-newsletters to the child and their family);
- Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.

## **Taking Images of Children**

Images of children can be used inappropriately or illegally.

The MYC requires that members, wherever possible, obtain written permission from a child's parent/guardian before taking an image of a child that is not their own and ensure that the parent is aware of the way in which the image will be used.

We also require the privacy of others to be respected and disallow the use of camera phones, videos and cameras inside changing areas, showers and toilets.

If the club uses an image of a child it will avoid naming or identifying the child and avoid using both the first name and surname.

We will only use appropriate images of a child, relevant to our sport and ensure that the child is suitably clothed in a manner that promotes the sport, displays its successes, etc

## **Transportation**

Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting their children to and from club activities (e.g. practice and regattas).

Where MYC makes arrangements for the transportation of children (e.g. for away or overnight trips), we will conduct a risk assessment that includes ensuring vehicles are safe, adequately insured and the driver has a current and appropriate licence for the vehicle being used.

**If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.**