

## Stawell Gymnastics Club Incorporated

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# GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN

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### **Maintain appropriate boundaries**

Coaches and other personnel in positions of authority should maintain clear:

#### **Physical boundaries**

- Only use physical contact that is appropriate for the development of a particular skill and has the permission of the athlete
- Work within sight of others at all times

#### **Emotional boundaries**

- Use positive feedback on performance, not negative feedback about the person
- Be encouraging and avoid put-downs

#### **Social boundaries**

- Attend sport related events such as sponsorship and fundraising events, celebrations and annual meetings but do not socialise with athletes outside sporting functions
- Do not socialise with athletes under the age of eighteen (18) via social media

#### **Sexual boundaries**

- Do not have sexual relationships with athletes you are coaching
- Do not touch athletes in ways likely to make them feel uncomfortable

#### **Minimise physical contact**

Generally, physical contact with players or participants should be to:

- Develop sport skills
- Give sports massage
- Treat an injury
- Prevent or respond to an injury
- Meet the specific requirements of the sport

All physical contact by personnel should fulfil the following criteria:

- Physical contact should be appropriate for the development of a sport skill/s
- Permission from the player or participant should always be sought
- Players or participants should be congratulated or comforted in public not in an isolated setting

### **Avoid being alone with a child**

To protect yourself and the child from risk:

- Do not isolate yourself and a child and avoid being alone with any particular child
- If a child approaches you and wants to talk to you privately about a matter, do so in an open area and in sight of other adults (e.g. other coaches, officials or parents/guardians)
- Before going into change rooms knock or announce that you will be coming in. Try to have at least one adult with you in a change room with children