

POLICY –Junior Membership and Child Safeguarding

POLICY AREA	Clubs and Programs
DATE WRITTEN	September 2021
DATE APPROVED BY BOARD	8 October 2021
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Sport Manager
RELATED DOCUMENTS	ANU Sport Member Protection Policy ANU Sport Member Protection Policy Attachments ANU Sport Social Media Policy ANU Sport Procedure – Managing Junior Members ANU Sport Junior Approval Application Form ANU Sport Junior Membership Form ANU Policy: Underage Student Management
CURRENT VERSION	1

1. PURPOSE

ANU Sport is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people who participate in our activities and / or use our services. ANU Sport Affiliated Clubs are permitted to accept Juniors into their membership, once they have met all the requirement outlined to be a Junior Approved Club and the Junior has been approved by ANU Sport. The purpose of this policy is to outline the requirements that must be achieved prior to a junior participant being admitted as member to any ANU Sport Affiliated Club.

2. SCOPE

This policy is applicable to any ANU Sport Affiliated Club wishing to accept Juniors into their membership. A junior or child is any person under the age of 18. Current ANU Students who are under the age of 18 will be treated in accordance with the ANU Policy: Underage Student Management. Steps must be taken by the Club Executive to ensure a safe environment for any junior member and accept the duty of care responsibilities associated with juniors participating in Club activities. Any other member within the Club that is a direct coach, manager, team officials, leaders or similar must also accept duty of care responsibilities and comply with the steps required to facilitate a safe environment for any junior member. The parent or guardian of the junior member must also consent to the junior participating and agreeing to all membership requirements as outlined within this policy or other ANU Sport membership policies, guidelines, and responsibilities.

Where this policy diverges from state or national sporting organization’s member protection policies, guidance must be sought from ANU Sport regarding application of this policy.

Junior participants who are engaged in the ANU Sport Fitness Centre or other programs and services managed and delivered by ANU Sport, will be catered for separately in terms and conditions related to those programs.

3. POLICY

Definition of a Junior Member

A junior or child is any person under the age of 18. Current ANU Students who are under the age of 18 will be treated in accordance with the *ANU Policy: Underage Student Management*. If a junior member is a current ANU Student, Clubs are advised to follow appropriate Child Safe guidelines, and in accordance with the *ANU Policy: Underage Student Management*, parents or guardians act as guarantors and honour all obligations under any contracts with the University that the student enters into prior to turning 18 years of age.

Becoming an ANU Sport Junior Approved Club and accepting Junior Members

Any ANU Sport Affiliated Club wishing to admit junior members must follow the procedure outlined in the document *Procedure – Managing Junior Members*.

Club Members Responsibilities

All parents, players, officials and administrators are to be on the lookout for potential risks to the safety of our child members. Do not hesitate to talk to the Club Child Protection Officer or ANU Sport's Sport Manager or CEO if you have any concerns.

It is advised that the Club Child Protection Officer, all members of the Club Executive, all coaches, managers, team officials, captains and / or people in positions of leadership within the Club complete the [Play By the Rules Child Protection and Safeguarding](#) online Course.

If you are suspicious that a child has been abused or neglected, or at risk of that occurring, phone the Child Abuse report line on 13 14 78 and then make the club aware of your concerns by contacting the Club Child Protection Officer. Every member has a responsibility to be up to date with our reporting and complaint handling process. For further information on Mandatory Notification of Child Abuse please access the following link (<https://www.playbytherules.net.au/got-an-issue/child-protection>).

Recruitment and Screening

Club President, Child Protection Officer, direct coach, manager, team officials, leaders or representatives (i.e. these signify preferred appointees) in a similar position of power must have a current Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) check.

If the WWVP, National Police Check, or DCSI Screening reveals that the person has been found guilty of any criminal offence, whether or not a conviction is recorded, the following requirements apply: Regardless of when the offence occurred, if it involved an offence of violence, abuse or assault against a child, murder or a Serious Sex Offence then:

- a. In the case of a Preferred Appointee, the person must not be appointed.
- b. In the case of an Existing Appointee, subject to obtaining appropriate legal advice beforehand the appointment of the person should be ended.

Harassment, Child Abuse and Discrimination

The ANU Sport Member Protection Policy address ANU Sport’s stance on Child protection, and specifically references how to manage any occurrence or concerns of Harassment, Abuse, Child Abuse, Discrimination and Vilification. These acts are unlawful and prohibited and constitute an offence under this Policy.

Where an allegation of Child Abuse has been reported, the Club Child Protection Officer must immediately report any incident to the police and other relevant government agency. This must also be reported to ANU Sport via the Sport Manager or CEO.

Social Media

Social Media / Networking refers to any interactive website or technology that enables persons to communicate and/or share content via the internet. The ANU Sport Social Media Policy and ANU Sport Member Protection Policy address ANU Sport’s stance on appropriate use of social media, and specifically references how to ensure child safety when using social media.

Picking Up and Dropping Off Juniors

The parent / guardian of a junior member is responsible for the member’s travel arrangements to and from Club activities. The Club will take reasonable steps, consistently with this Policy, to ensure the junior member’s safety is maintained during the Club activity. The parent / guardian of the junior member is responsible for the junior member on and from the conclusion of the Club activity and is encouraged to attend Club activities where appropriate.

Complaints Policy

If any person considers that this policy has been breached, they may make a complaint. Complaints should be made in accordance with the information and procedures outlined in the ANU Sport Member Protection Policy.

Penalties

If the club considers that a person to whom this policy applies, has breached this Policy, it may impose any one or more of the following penalties:

- Direct that the offender attend counselling to address their conduct
- Recommend that the appointment of any role which the offender holds within the club is terminated.
- Suspend the offender from competition for such period as the club sees fit.
- Terminate the membership of the offender with the club.

Please refer to the ANU Sport Member Protection Policy for further guidance as it relates to Child Safeguarding within the Community.

4. POLICY HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	UPDATE NOTES
1	1/10/2021	K. McCaskie	