



Blue Lake Y Swim Club Child Safe Policy

1. PURPOSE

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the management and volunteers of Blue Lake Y Swim Club to child safety and establishing and maintaining child safe and child friendly environments.

2. CONTEXT

This policy reflects our commitment to provide a safe environment where every person has the right to be treated with respect and is safe and protected from abuse. It complies with our obligations under Swimming Australia Safe Sport Framework and under the Children's Protection Act 1993, including:

Section 8B – 8D – Child Safe Environments and criminal history assessments for people working with children; and

Section 11 – Mandatory reporting.

It also complies with the Child Safe Environments: Principles of Good Practice and Standards for dealing with information obtained about the criminal history of volunteers who work with children issued by the Chief Executive of the Department for Families and Communities.

3. SCOPE

This policy, from the date of endorsement, applies to all volunteers, children, parents, carers and other individuals involved in the club.

4. COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY (include risk management)

All children who come to Blue Lake Y Swim Club have a right to feel and be safe. We are committed to the safety and well-being of all children and young people accessing our services and the welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where all children are valued and feel safe.

We have appointed one Child Safety Officer as a first point of contact to provide advice and support to children, parents and volunteers regarding the safety and well-being of children in our club.

5. CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

Blue Lake Y Swim Club members and volunteers encourage children to express their views, and make suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect children. We actively encourage children who use our services to 'have a say' about those things that are important to them. We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices.

We teach children what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns children, or their parents, raise with us.

6. RECRUITMENT PRACTICES

Blue Lake Y Swim Club takes all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages the most suitable and

appropriate people to work with children. We employ a range of screening measures and apply best practice standards in the screening and recruitment of volunteers.

We conduct criminal history assessment for people working with children, as set out in section 8B of the Children's Protection Act 1993. We ensure that criminal history information is dealt with in accordance with the standards developed by the Chief Executive of the Department for Families and Communities.

7. CODE OF CONDUCT

All members are made aware of, and must abide by, our Code of Conduct. Our Code of Conduct was developed in collaboration with all our volunteers, the children who use our services and their parents.

8. SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTEERS

Blue Lake Y Swim Club seeks to attract and retain the best volunteers. We provide support and supervision so people feel valued, respected and fairly treated. We ensure that volunteers who work with children have ongoing supervision, support and training so that their performance is developed and enhanced to promote the establishment and maintenance of a child safe environment.

9. REPORTING AND RESPONDING TO SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Blue Lake Y Swim Club will not tolerate incidents of child abuse. All volunteers understand their obligation to notify the **Child Abuse Report Line** on **13 14 78** as soon as practicable if they have a suspicion that a child has been, or is being, abused or neglected.

Volunteers must report to the BLY Committee any suspicion that a child has been, or is being, abused or neglected by another member or volunteer.

Blue Lake Y Swim Club may resolve to take protective action to keep the child and others safe.

10. STRATEGIES TO MINIMISE RISK

Policies and procedures may address (but are not limited to):

- ✓ Transportation of children
- ✓ Taking images of children
- ✓ Supervision of children
- ✓ Child safety officer
- ✓ Complaints procedures
- ✓ Physical contact
- ✓ Responsibilities
- ✓ Procedure for breaches of policy
- ✓ Social media policies
- ✓ Protecting privacy and confidentiality
- ✓ Procedures for dealing with situations where a member is being investigated for, or is charged with, a serious criminal offence

11. HARASSMENT/BULLYING

Blue Lake Y Swim Club opposes all forms of harassment, discrimination and bullying. We take this issue seriously and encourage anyone who believes that they, or another person, has been harassed, discriminated against or bullied to raise this issue with the BLY Committee.

12. COMMUNICATION

Blue Lake Y Swim Club will ensure that everyone to whom this policy applies is aware of and has had an opportunity to read the policy. A copy will be made available on the club's website. A copy of the Child Safe Policy will be emailed to all members within the first month of each swimming season, once annual membership renewals have been processed.

13. RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- ✓ Code of Conduct
- ✓ Any relevant policies or procedures that Blue Lake Y Swim Club has developed to protect children, including:
- ✓ Policy and procedure for dealing with members charged with, or under investigation for, a serious criminal offence
- ✓ Volunteer recruitment procedures, including those relating to conducting criminal history assessments
- ✓ Mandatory reporting procedures (including where a suspicion is reported to Blue Lake Y Swim Club)
- ✓ Risk management strategy
- ✓ Any other policies and procedures developed to manage risks and protection of children
- ✓ Swimming Australia Safe Sport Framework
- ✓ Swimming Australia's Child Safety Policy Guidelines

Approved By	Date	Review Date
Chris O'Callaghan BLY President	30th April, 2018	30th April, 2019