

# BALLARAT ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS (BAS) CHILD SAFE CODE OF CONDUCT



## Safeguarding Children and Young People at BAS Events and Activities

*It is the purpose of Ballarat Associated Schools (BAS) to provide structured competition for the member schools to maximise the opportunities for students to participate in organised sport.*

*The purposes of the Association are:*

- 1. To be a group of like-minded schools in the Ballarat region who associate for the purposes of sporting, cultural and social inter-change in a mutually supportive manner for the benefit of the students of the schools.*
- 2. To arrange and enter into inter-school activities in order to cultivate friendship, goodwill and a spirit of fair play and comradeship.*
- 3. To promote a spirit of co-operation, generosity, courtesy, consideration and healthy competition amongst member schools at all times.*

*(Please see BAS Handbook for a complete list of purposes of BAS)*

## **Purpose of this Code of Conduct**

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at BAS Events and Activities against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect. It is intended to complement other professional and/or occupational codes.

All staff, volunteers, officials, contractors, and board/school council members at BAS are expected to actively contribute to a school sporting association culture that respects the dignity of its members and affirms the values of care for others, compassion and justice. They are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

## **Acceptable behaviours**

All staff, volunteers, officials, contractors, visitors, parents/guardians and board/school council members are responsible for supporting the safety of children within our association by:

- adhering to the *BAS Child Safety Policy* and upholding the associations commitment to child safety at all times
- taking all reasonable steps to protect the young people at our events from abuse
- treating everyone in the BAS community with respect, modelling positive and respectful relationships and acting in manner that sustain a safe and positive environment
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people
- promoting the cultural safety participation and empowerment of young people with culturally and /or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of young people with a disability
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the young person/people are safe in accordance with the *BAS Child Safety Policy*
- ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the school's concerned Child Protection Officer and/or the BAS Executive Officer

- understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the *Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)*
- ensuring that this Code of Conduct is followed in any interactions with students from every associated member school of BAS when attending any BAS events or activities.

## Unacceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors, visitors, parents/guardians and board/school council members must NOT, unless prior and explicit consent is given by the BAS Executive Officer or BAS Inc.:

- put young people at risk of abuse
- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of young people
- use inappropriate language in the presence of young people
- express personal views on culture, race or sexuality in the presence of young people
- discriminate against any young person on the basis of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
- exhibit behaviours with young people which may be construed as unnecessarily physical
- initiate unnecessary physical contact with a young person or do things of a personal nature that a young person can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- consume alcohol or take illicit drugs under any circumstances at an event where students are present.
- work with any young person while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or personal email addresses with a young person
- have any online contact with a child or their family (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc), unless necessary i.e. by providing families with information relevant to their involvement and participation in BAS events and activities
- use any personal communication channels/devices such as a personal email account to contact a child or their family unless necessary i.e. by providing families with information relevant to their involvement and participation in BAS events and activities

## Responsibilities in matters of Child Safety:

All staff, volunteers, officials, contractors, visitors, parents/guardians and board/school are responsible for:

- listening and responding to concerns of young people; particularly if they are telling you that they or another young person have been abused or that they are worried about their safety/the safety of another young person
- reporting any allegations of child abuse as outlined in the *BAS Child Protection – Reporting Obligations*
- understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the *Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)* and as contained in the *BAS Child Safety Policy*
- reporting any child safety concerns as outlined in the *BAS Child Protection – Reporting Obligations*
- ensuring child safety protocols at all BAS events and venues are implemented
- ensuring risk assessments at all BAS events and venues incorporate child safety

Please list any BAS Event/s where you will have interactions with students from the association's 8 member colleges:

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, confirm I have been provided with a copy of the above *BAS Code of Conduct* and have listed any known interactions I will have with students from its member colleges. I will update this list when/if necessary.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_