



GIPPSLAND SPORTS ACADEMY

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS – GUIDE FOR TEENS

Date created:	1 st July 2022
Audience:	GSA athletes aged 13 – 18yrs of age [It is not recommended for those under the age of <u>13</u> years.]
Version:	July 2022
Purpose of Document:	Help children and young people in sport to understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that sport should be safe; • that it's OK to tell an adult they trust if they have any concerns; and • their own responsibilities when participating in sport.
Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and understand • Encourage others to read, understand and promote the Kids Guide to children and young people and their parents. • Make available to all GSA athletes aged 13 - 18
Review:	July 2023 if not prior
Gippsland Sports Academy Contact:	Executive Officer: Anita Pistrin Board Chair: Jim Vivian
Contents:	Document(s) Guide for Teens Pages 3
Other relevant resources (see GSA website) https://www.sportgippsland.org.au/about-us/child-safe-standards/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Conduct for dealing with Children & Young People • Child Safe Policy • Parents and Guardians Guide • Athlete Code of Behaviour • Social Media Policy



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Three Important Messages

The **three key messages** to always keep in mind are:

1. All GSA Sporting programs should be fun, safe and enjoyable.
2. You should never feel uncomfortable around others in GSA Sporting programs , particularly adults.
3. If you don't feel safe or comfortable, **it's OK to speak up**. We want you to **tell an adult that you trust** – whether that's your Mum or Dad, guardian, coach, team manager, Club Child Safety Officer or another member of your GSA Sporting program or family.

Your rights

We believe that all kids involved in our sport should:

- Feel comfortable;
- Feel safe;
- Have a right to contact your parents/guardians or others if you feel unsafe, uncomfortable or distressed at any time when you are involved in GSA Sporting programs;
- Be provided with clear directions and given the chance to positively change your behaviour if GSA Sporting program staff, coaches, volunteers or officials believe that you have broken any rules or policies or you have misbehaved;
- NOT be subject to disciplinary action involving verbal or physical punishment, or any form of treatment that could reasonably be considered cruel, frightening, humiliating or like you are being put down; and
- Contribute suggestions or feedback about GSA Sporting programs.

Our Commitment to you in GSA Sporting programs

GSA Sporting programs now has a **Child Protection Commitment Statement** that aims to make sure you are protected from harm. When involved in GSA Sporting programs, we want it to be enjoyable for everyone. So, we'll try to make sure that activities are suitable for your age and development and are led by qualified people.

GSA Sporting programs commit to:

- Doing our best to make sure that you are protected from harm;
- Supervising your involvement in GSA Sporting programs in Victoria;
- Obtaining parent/guardian permission in writing before we can:
 - take you on an excursion;
 - arrange overnight stays or camps; and/or
 - provide transport to another location.
- Ensuring that **employee/coach/volunteer/official-to-teens ratios are maintained**. (Note - please check with us if you are unsure what is meant by “ratios”);
- Trying to make sure that **you are not alone** with staff, coaches, volunteers or officials where they can’t be seen by other adults;
- Trying to make sure that **GSA Sporting program staff, coaches, volunteers and/or officials stay within their role**. This means that they cannot be employed for looking after you or visiting you at your home unless with the permission of your Parent/Guardian. They are not allowed to friend you on Facebook, take photos or footage of you for Instagram, YouTube, Snap Chat or other forms of social media unless they are doing this through official club communication channels with the consent of your parent/guardian.
- **Communication between you and coaches, officials and volunteers** in our sport must be regarding your involvement in GSA Sporting programs unless your Parent/Guardian has given their permission for you to have contact with them at a particular time;
- **Guiding teens fairly, respectfully and appropriate to their age and background;**
- **Reporting and responding to any incidents** of abuse or neglect towards teens involved in GSA Sporting programs .
- Where and when possible, our **GSA Sporting program staff, volunteers and officials wearing a uniform and/or having an appropriate name badge visible** on when on duty.

What to do if you have concerns:

- If at any stage you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried, you should let your parent/guardian or a trusted adult in GSA Sporting programs know what has happened – they will want to support you.
- All you need to do is tell someone about what happened and they will do their best to make sure that you feel safe and protected from harm.

Responsibilities of Teens in GSA Sporting programs

When you are involved in GSA Sporting programs, you also have some responsibilities. These include:

- Letting a member/parent/guardian know if you are unhappy or you don't feel safe;
- Treating other participants and adults with respect;
- Following the rules when involved in GSA Sporting programs;
- Remembering that there are others involved in GSA Sporting programs. You are certainly free to choose your own friends. However, don't stop other teens or younger kids from enjoying and participating in GSA Sporting programs; and
- Listening to others and respecting their opinions.

GSA Contact:

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