

VEIS CHILD SAFE Equestrian Event Guidelines

PARENTS, SCHOOL STAFF AND SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

Equestrian Australia and each of the schools of students participating in Interschool competition is committed to the safety of each and every child who attends. Child Safety is at the heart of this event and every student who attends, whether competing, assisting or spectating has the right to feel safe at all times. Whilst the competing schools may also have their own policies and procedures, at this event every adult is also expected to adhere to this simple Child Safe Code of Conduct as outlined in the EA Child Safeguarding Policy

[NIF Child Safeguarding Policy December 2021.pdf](#)

DO:

- Behave as a positive role model to students.
- Promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of all children attending the event.
- Be vigilant and proactive with regard to children safety and child protection issues.
- Provide age appropriate supervision for riders in their care.
- Comply with protocols and guidelines published by the Event Committee with respect to child protection.
- Treat all children with respect.
- Promote the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability.
- Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of linguistically and culturally diverse children.
- Use positive and affirming language toward children.
- Encourage children to 'have a say' and then listen to them with respect.
- Respect cultural, religious and political differences.
- Help provide an open, safe and supportive environment for all children to interact, and socialise.
- Intervene when children are engaging in inappropriate bullying behaviour towards others or acting in a humiliating or vilifying way.
- Report any breaches of this Child Protection Code of Conduct to the Event Child Safe Officer (see below).
- Report concerns about child safety to one of the Event's Child Safety Officer (see below) and ensure that your legal obligations to report allegations externally are met.
- Where an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the student involved is safe.
- Call the Police on 000 if you have immediate concerns for a child's safety.
- Respect the privacy of children and their families and only disclose information to people who have a need to know.

DON'T:

- Engage in any form of inappropriate behaviour towards children or expose children to such behaviour.
- Use prejudice, oppressive behaviour or inappropriate language with children.
- Express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children or discriminate against any child based on culture, race, ethnicity or disability.
- Engage in open discussions of an adult nature in the presence of children.
- Engage in any form of sexual conduct with a child including making sexually suggestive comments and sharing sexually suggestive material.
- Engage in inappropriate or unnecessary physical conduct or behaviours
- Engage in any form of physical violence towards a child including inappropriately rough physical play.
- Use physical means or corporal punishment to discipline or control a child.
- Engage in any form of behaviour that has the potential to cause a child serious emotional or psychological harm.

- Engage in undisclosed private meetings with a child that is not your own child.
- Engage in inappropriate personal communications with a child through any medium, including any online contact or interactions.
- Take or publish (including online) photos, movies or recordings of a child without parental/carer consent.
- Post online any information about a child that may identify them such as their: full name; age; e-mail address; telephone number; residence; school; or details of a club or group they may attend.
- Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.

What to do if you have a concern:

If you believe a participant or visitor to the Event has acted in an unsafe way towards a competitor or child (verbally, physically or through their behaviours), we encourage you to firstly speak with the senior most staff member from the school involved. If this is not possible or appropriate, the Child Safe phone number will be available to report matters of concern. *Both students, staff and parents/visitors are encouraged to use this number if they would like to report a suspicious or unsafe matter.*

Event Child Safety Officer: XXXXXXXXX NUMBER TBC for each competition

(This person may delegate the monitoring of this phone to another suitable person at different times throughout the event).

Key Responsibilities of a Child Safety Officer include:

- having training and a good working knowledge of the Government Child Protection Policy and Child Protection Program
- ensuring that there are clear procedures to allow people to report reportable conduct matters at the event
- ensuring there is signage and means of communication for reporting or disclosure
- being a first point of contact at the event for raising child protection concerns. Delegation of the monitoring of a contact phone to another suitable person, at different times throughout the event, may be made.
- offering assistance and support when a disclosure of harm or abuse is made
- promptly manage a response to an allegation or disclosure of child abuse, and ensuring that the allegation or disclosure is taken seriously without replacing any legal reporting obligations any person may have
- assisting with appropriate responses to child protection incidents including liaising with the Police and other external agencies and responding to a child who makes, or is affected by, an allegation of child abuse
- organising external support to assist parties following a disclosure or suspicion of harm, abuse or grooming

CHILD SAFE PROTOCOLS

ALL adults (parents, supporters, staff, and visitors) MUST register their attendance either by electronic or physical check-in to the Event and in doing so acknowledge their intended adherence to the Child Safe nature of this event. This includes any spectators.

Parents and families of competitors and official school staff must register, but are exempt from presentation of a Working With Children declaration.

Every official over 18 (e.g. judges, coaches, contracted staff) is expected to provide some form of Child Safe identification. WWC numbers of all judges and officials should be centrally recorded.

Schools are required to ensure their competitors (and their families/support crew/spectators) are familiar with this Code of Conduct and the Equestrian Australia Code of Conduct.

The Principal of the respective school of a student, staff member or spectator may be informed if there is a breach of this Code of Conduct.

The EVENT ORGANISERS reserve the right to refuse access to the event to anyone deemed unsupportive or uncooperative of the Child Safe registration requirements or Code of Conduct of this Event. This may include calling upon Victoria Police for assistance.

The EVENT ORGANISERS reserve the right to inform the Principal of the respective school of a student, staff member or spectator if there is a breach of this Code of Conduct.

RESOURCES

<https://www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/NIF%20Child%20Safeguarding%20Policy%20December%202021.pdf>

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/publications/child-safe-standards>

Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) – [Child Safe Standards](#)

CCYP – [‘Being a Child Safe Organisation’](#)

CCYP – [‘Guide to Creating a Child Safe Organisation’](#)

Vicsport – [‘Child Safe Resources’](#)