

Child Protection

What is Child Protection?

Child Protection is an increasing concern for parents/guardians & community groups alike. It is about keeping children and young people safe from abuse, including discrimination and harassment, and protecting them from people who are unsuitable to work with children.

It is often a legal requirement, within Australia, covered by child protection and anti-discrimination legislation. It is also an ethical obligation and a very important consideration in meeting an appropriate 'duty of care' obligation. AusTouch Centre's throughout Australia must abide by their individual state or territories laws and guidelines surrounding Child Protection. To be updated on what is required the Australian Sports Commission has a summary of Child Protection Legislation & Mandatory Report of Child Abuse. This can be found at www.ausport.gov.au.

What responsibilities do I have as a Leader at an AusTouch Centre?

You have a 'duty of care' to ensure that the participants in your charge are safe at all times, both before, during and after an AusTouch Session. This means you need to take all reasonable steps which might include:

- Report to your Centre Coordinator anyone who might be spectating that looks suspicious in any way. Take down as many details as possible and perhaps phone the police if you are concerned.
- Move or protect a child if someone is making you feel uneasy.
- Keep eyes out for anyone photographing the children who do not have permission.
- Ensure that you are at the session early enough so that children that might arrive early can be supervised, furthermore ensure an adult is supervising after the session.
- Ensure that all children are collected from a session by a person nominated by the parent or guardian on the AusTouch Registration Form. This is particularly important as many families deal with divorces, separations and custody issues.
- Always ask permission before you touch a child.

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- Always remain in a public forum when you may find yourself in a one on one situation. This may mean asking or being asked to remain behind after a session to ensure that a female and male supervisor is present at all times.
- Ask parents or guardians to contact you if they are going to be late, alternative person will be picking up a child, or if a child is going with another participants family after an AusTouch session.
- Monitor and note any injuries of participants by using a Leader Diary or Session Plan. Keep good records and submit these to a Centre Coordinator.
- Meet any legal requirements that your state or territory may have.
- Abide by the Touch Football Australia Incorporated Member Protection Policy; an updated policy can be accessed at www.austouch.com.au

Above are just a summary of possible steps that as a Leader you need to cover in order to meet 'duty of care' that shows that reasonable actions are undertaken.

It is strongly recommended as an AusTouch Leader up undertakes an online course on the issues surrounding child protection at:

www.playbytherules.com.au

The course is very short, is easy to navigate and you can get a certificate at the end. This website can also be used as a resource for being more aware of the subject matter.