



Working with Children Check Guidelines General Information Child Protection is about keeping children safe from abuse and protecting them from people who are unsuitable to work with children. The Working with Children Check (WWCC) provides a mandatory minimum standard for assessing the suitability of people working with children and young people.

The check aims to screen for people who may pose a risk to the safety of children and young people in either paid or volunteer work. It applies to people who have regular direct contact with children where that contact is not directly supervised. The WWC Check is managed by the Department of Justice. WWC Check Cards are valid for five years (unless revoked because of a relevant change in the holder's circumstances or voluntarily surrendered by the holder). Guidelines AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria have developed a guideline for Clubs, Leagues, and Associations to follow to ensure the sport is doing everything possible to prevent child related offences. Under the Act, a person involved in football/netball is considered to be engaging in child related work and must apply for the WWCC if they:

- Work or volunteer in a role that brings them into contact with children under 18; and
  - Volunteer or do this work on a regular basis; and
  - Have direct contact with children under 18 which is not directly supervised; and
  - Do not qualify for one of the exemptions in the legislation (subject to AFL Victoria's /Netball Victoria's policies).
- It is against the Law for a person who is required to but has not obtained a Working with Children Check to engage in child-related work, including volunteering. It is also against the law to knowingly employ a person who has not obtained a Working with Children Check in child-related work if they are required to have one, including volunteering. Exemptions AFL Victoria endorses the following exemptions from the legislation, and it will recognize that Clubs and Associations shall not require the following individuals to apply for the WWCC (subject to appropriate proof being sighted): > Persons aged under 18; > Sworn Members of Victoria Police (who are not suspended from duty)

Teachers registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching; (clubs are required to sight the VIT registration. However, AFL Victoria does not endorse this exemption and it expressly requires that all parents that meet the criteria set out above apply for and obtain a WWCC.

AFL Victoria is one of a number of sports that have taken this view in order to maximise the protection of children involved in football. Clubs AFL Victoria expects that Clubs with junior teams will, as a minimum requirement, have the following people obtain a WWCC:

- \* All Executive Committee member's i.e. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, as well as Canteen Manager / Supervisor;

- \* Child Safety Officer

- \*Coach of a team;

- \*Team Manager of a team;

- \*Club Trainer of a team;

- \*Any adult attending an overnight trip with a junior team.

- \* Other members of the junior club who are involved in regular contact with children that are not directly supervised by a person who has completed a WWCC.

In the case where junior players are playing in a senior team, the minimum requirements for Clubs in this instance will be:

- \* Coach of a team;

- \* Team Manager of a team;

- \* Club Trainer of a team.

- \* All Senior Netball Players as per Netball Victoria Policies/CHNL Policies must have a current WWC.

- \* At Rokewood Corindhap, we encourage all Senior Football Players to obtain a WWC

It is essential to have someone at the club who is responsible for WWC Check matters. This person can provide members with information; validate the WWC Check cards and record details. In the majority of instances this will be the Club Secretary. It is recommended that where exemptions apply, the Nominated Person of each Club, League or Association records this to ensure up-to-date records are maintained.

All persons commencing child related work with an AFL Victoria affiliate must ensure that they update their WWCC registration to show this organization (AFL Victoria, League, Club, NAB Auskick centre, Netball Victoria) as one of their employers. This can be undertaken at the following link: <https://online.justice.vic.gov.au/wwccu/login.doj?>

next=mycheck When moving from one organisation to another, or adding an additional organisation, it is required that the card holder update their organisation details online so that each organisation they are involved with receives all relevant communication. Leagues & Associations AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria expects that Leagues and Associations will, as a minimum requirement, have the following people obtain a WWCC:

- \*League or Association representative team that have players U18 participating:
- \* Coaches;
- \*Trainers; and/or \* Team Managers
- \* Members of the League or Association Umpiring Board and/or Umpire Coaches.
- \* Any adult attending an overnight trip with a junior team.
- \* Other members of the League or Association who are involved in regular contact with children.

League and Associations should also maintain a register, provided by each Club, of the people within the Association who have been approved under the legislation. It would not be necessary for the League or Association to sight actual check documents. For information regarding the process of obtaining a WWCC, please visit the Department of Justice website at [www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren).

The above requirements, to comply with the WWC legislation, are in addition to all existing AFL Victoria / Netball Victoria and affiliated member child safety policies such as Code of Behaviour and Member Protection Policies