

Member Protection – Working with Children

A Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) is the first point of contact for persons with **member protection** or **child protection enquiries** or **complaints**. MPIO's are impartial and have received further training in how to handle complaints. They are the 'go to' person if you want to discuss concerns, particularly if you are considering making an official complaint.

The Barden Ridgebacks Football Club Member Protection Information Officers can be contacted via email: [**president@bardenridgebacks.com.au**](mailto:president@bardenridgebacks.com.au)

Commitment to Child Safety at Barden Ridgebacks Football Club

Barden Ridgebacks Football Club (BRFC) provides a safe culture by supporting children and young people, their families and communities and by ensuring all volunteers and staff who work with Barden Ridgebacks Football Club are committed to safeguarding children and young people.

We intend to:

- Provide a safe and supportive environment to children and young people;
- Ensure that the experiences of children and young people within our Football community are free from any form of harmful conduct, including child abuse, neglect or grooming;
- Empower children and young people so they feel able to respond to any behaviours that are not acceptable;
- Ensure children and young people know who to approach if they feel unsafe or have any child safety concerns, including abuse, neglect and grooming;
- Provide appropriate codes of conduct to everyone who interacts with our organisation;
- Establish a reporting framework;
- Provide support for any children and young people who report or are suspected of being exposed to concerning conduct, including abuse, neglect or grooming;
- Ensure that players and staff follow our codes of conduct;
- Ensure all recruited staff have their Working with Children Check (WWCCC) completed and other screening checks where possible;
- Induct all stakeholders so they recognise their role in keeping children and young people safe;
- Facilitate ongoing learning and development opportunities related to child safety.
- Ensure that all stakeholders are aware of our reporting policy and process;

- Provide necessary support to our members if they are exposed to, or report abuse, neglect or grooming; and
- Continually welcome feedback from stakeholders to develop and improve our child safe policies and procedures.

For further information on Child Safety, **BRFC** have released the following documents:

- [Child Safe Policy](#)
- Commitment to Child Safety
- Code of Conduct
- Reporting Policy
- HR Policy
- Risk Management Policy

BRFC Human Resources Policy

All paid and unpaid staff, including volunteers of Barden Ridgebacks Football Club are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people who engage with our organisation.

We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that our organisation engages suitable and appropriate people to work with children.

All paid and volunteer staff working with children under 18 years of age must have a valid Working with Children Check (WWCCC) number and expiry date. The Working with Children Check is a mandatory NSW Government requirement and plays an important part in safeguarding children involved in football and in providing a child safe and child friendly sport environment.

The WWCC is entered into the [Shared Services website](#) when registering as a volunteer (employee, coach, manager or executive committee volunteer). The MPIO also oversees the WWCC checks, ensuring that all **BRFC** employees, coaches, managers, executive committee and helpers have been verified.

Check your status to see if you already have completed the check:

<https://WWCCcheck.ocg.nsw.gov.au/FindMyNumber>

Apply for WWCC approval here:

<https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/working-children-check/applicant/how-apply-WWCCc>

All paid and volunteer staff are expected to:

- follow the relevant **BRFC** codes of conduct for the role they are undertaking;

- understand their obligations to child safety by undertaking any relevant training and remaining up-to-date with current policies;
- follow the **BRFC** child safe policy and related child safe code of conduct;
- provide feedback to continually improve our organisations documentation when required.

Any breaches of conduct may result in the immediate dismissal from their role with us. For more information, please contact the **BRFC** Member Protection Information Officers.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS HERE [\(link to new documents\)](#)

<https://www.bardenridgebacks.com.au/forms/child-safe-reporting-policy>

https://www.bardenridgebacks.com.au/sites/bardenridgebacks.com.au/files/brfc_draft_child-safety-policy_10052024.pdf

<https://www.bardenridgebacks.com.au/forms/child-safety-code-conduct>

<https://www.bardenridgebacks.com.au/forms/recruitment-policy>