



BENTLEIGH GREENS SOCCER CLUB INC CHILD SAFE STANDARDS GUIDE FOR TEENS

Date created:	1 July 2023
Audience:	All persons involved in or connected to Football (Soccer) at Bentleigh Greens Soccer Club Inc (BGSC) including Board/Committee members, employees, contractors, coaches, team managers, players, parents, spectators and officials.
Version:	2023:1
Purpose of Document:	<p>Help children and young people in sport to understand:</p> <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 • their own responsibilities when participating in sport.
Actions:	Encourage others to read, understand and promote the Kids Guide to children and young people and their parents.
Review:	Biennially from the date of this Guide
Bentleigh Greens Soccer Club Inc Contact:	BGSC Club Secretary/Club Safety Officer info@bentleighgreens.com.au
Contents:	Guide for Teens
Other relevant resources (see BGSC website):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safety Policy • Child Safety Code of Conduct • eSafety Guide



Three Important Messages

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

1. Football (Soccer) should be fun, safe and enjoyable.
2. You should never feel uncomfortable around others in Football (Soccer), 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 BGSC or your 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 Football (Soccer);
- Be provided with clear directions and given the chance to positively change your behaviour if Football (Soccer) 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 Football (Soccer).

Our Commitment to you in Football (Soccer)

BGSC now has a **Child Protection Commitment Statement** that aims to make sure you are protected from harm. When involved in Football (Soccer), 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.

BGSC commits to:

- Doing our best to make sure that you are protected from harm;
- Supervising your involvement in Football (Soccer) 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 BGSC employees, contractors, 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 Football (Soccer) 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 Football (Soccer).
- Where and when possible, our employees, contractors, volunteers and officials wearing a uniform 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 BGSC 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 Football (Soccer)

When you are involved in Football (Soccer), 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 Football (Soccer);
- Remembering that there are others involved in Football (Soccer). You are certainly free to choose your own friends. However, don't stop other teens or younger kids from enjoying and participating in Football (Soccer); and
- Listening to others and respecting their opinions.