



BENTLEIGH GREENS SOCCER CLUB INC

GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN

Date created:	1 January 2024
Audience:	All BGSC Board/Committee members, employees, contractors, coaches, team managers and officials.
Version:	2024:1
Purpose of Document:	These Guidelines are to provide guidance as to how to interact with children and protect children from harm
Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that All BGSC Board/Committee members, employees, contractors, coaches, team managers and officials read and understand these Guidelines. • Encourage other internal and external stakeholders to read and understand this guide.
Review:	Biennially from the date of this Policy
Bentleigh Greens Soccer Club Contact:	BGSC Club Secretary/Club Safety Officer info@bentleighgreens.com.au
Contents:	Guidelines For Interacting With Children
Other relevant resources (see BGSC website)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safety Policy • Child Safety Codes of Conduct

Maintain appropriate boundaries

Coaches, team managers and officials and other personnel in positions of authority should maintain clear:

Physical boundaries

- Use drills to develop fitness, not as a punishment
- Only use physical contact that is appropriate for the development of a particular skill and has the permission of the athlete
- Work within sight of others at all times.

Emotional boundaries

- Use positive feedback on performance, not negative feedback about the person
- Be encouraging and avoid put-downs

Social boundaries

- Attend sport related events such as sponsorship and fundraising events, celebrations and annual meetings but do not socialise with players outside sporting functions.
- Do not socialise with players via social media.

Sexual boundaries

- Do not have sexual relationships with players you are coaching
- Do not touch players in ways likely to make them feel uncomfortable

Minimise physical contact

Generally, physical contact with players or participants should be to:

- Develop sport skills
- Give sports massage
- Treat an injury
- Prevent or respond to an injury
- Meet the specific requirements of the sport.

All physical contact by personnel should fulfil the following criteria:

- Physical contact should be appropriate for the development of a sport skill/s
- Permission from the player or participant should always be sought
- Players or participants should be congratulated or comforted in public not in an isolated setting.

Avoid being alone with a child

To protect yourself and the child from risk:

- Do not isolate yourself and a child and avoid being alone with any particular child
- If a child approaches you and wants to talk to you privately about a matter, do so in an open area and in sight of other adults (e.g. other coaches, officials or parents/guardians)
- Before going into change rooms knock or announce that you will be coming in. Try to have at least one adult with you in a change room with children.