

Child Safe Standards

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS GUIDE

Date created:	10/09/2024
Audience:	Parents and Guardians of Members and Participants who are under the age of 18 years.
Version:	2024:1
Purpose of Document:	<p>(a) To summarise and simplify what parents and guardians need to know about all of our responsibilities to keep children and young people in DVE Aquatic Club safe; and</p> <p>(b) To ensure that parents and guardians have oversight of the information that DVE Aquatic Club distributes to its members under the age of 18 years.</p>
Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read and understand. ● Ask and ensure that Parents and Guardians acknowledge that they have read and understand this guide ● Encourage others to read and understand
Review:	November 2025 if not prior
DVE Aquatic Club Contact:	Child Safety Officer - contact details on website
Contents:	<p>Document(s)</p> <p>DVE Child Safe Parents and Guardians Guide</p> <p>Other related Documents</p> <p>DVE Child Safe Policy</p> <p>DVE Code of Conduct for Dealing with Children</p> <p>DVE Child Safe Guide for Teens</p>
Other relevant resources (see DVE Aquatic Club website):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● eSafety Guide ● Guidance to deal with Child Safe Concerns ● Tips and Scripts for Complaint Management ● Form – Confidential Record of Child Safe Concern ● DVE media use consent form

DVE Aquatic Club

Child Safe Standards

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS GUIDE

The Child Safe Standards set out the responsibilities that all Participants within your DVE Aquatic Club (including parents) have to keep our kids safe. It consists of:

- **DVE Aquatic Club's Child Safe Policy for Safeguarding Children & Young People;** and
- **DVE Aquatic Club's Code of Conduct for dealing with Children & Young People.**

WHY YOUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY:

1. We love swimming, water polo and diving. We also love your kids playing water polo, swimming and diving with us and want them to keep participating. Yet we realise they have to FEEL safe to enjoy DVE Aquatic Club and want to return.
2. All kids have a right to feel safe, be involved and have a voice in decisions that affect them*.
3. Society has changed, and with it, higher standards of behaviour are now expected – of all of us. Sometimes, even though we have good intentions, others' *perception* of behaviour is different. So we want to help you to understand how we will work with you to protect your children.

WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO:

We're here to help. Victoria has legislative requirements and mandatory standards in place about child safety. We can't ignore those. But we want to make it as simple as possible for you, your kids and all of our DVE Aquatic Club volunteers, coaches and members to keep children safe.

We've developed simple resources for you to explain how we keep children and young people safe in our Club. This Guide also includes links to our other child safe resources that we hope are helpful for you to summarise and simplify the key commitments, messages and boundaries that we adhere to and practice when they are part of our community.

SOME CHILD SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS:

You know your children best. Also, our schools now often teach their students about safety, boundaries with adults and that it's OK to speak up if they don't feel comfortable or safe. You can also help us to reinforce the key messages we have for children about child safety in DVE Aquatic Club, just as in life.

The **three key messages** we have are:

1. DVE Aquatic Club should be fun, safe and enjoyable.
2. You should never feel uncomfortable around others in DVE Aquatic Club, 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 or another member of your club or family.

We know that children are more likely to speak up if they **feel valued** and are **listened to** in an **authentic** and **genuine** way. So please help us to **keep the conversations open with your kids** about how they are feeling.

SOME CONVERSATION TIPS TO TALK ABOUT SAFETY WITH YOUR CHILDREN:

It's not always comfortable talking to kids about how they are feeling in our community or other environments. The delivery of conversations is just as important as the message or content itself. You're more likely to engage with children about tricky topics if the conversation is calm, non-judgmental and open. That is, you're listening carefully to them and open to hearing more – showing empathy and letting them know that they're doing the right thing by talking.

To open up a conversation with your child about safety in DVE Aquatic Club, first of all, choose the right time. Sometimes, you may get more information in casual interactions, such as when driving in the car or going for a walk together. You could try using an example that you have heard of with another kid and whether they have seen or heard anything similar. For example, *“another parent at the club told me that they were worried about how the coach is talking to their child. Have you seen or heard anything similar?”*.

IF YOU NEED HELP:

If ever your child tells you that they are not happy, comfortable or safe in our DVE Aquatic Club, **please tell an appropriate senior person in DVE Aquatic Club such as your club's Child Safety Officer or a trusted coach or official**. Then we'll make sure that any issue raised is dealt with appropriately and in line with our Child Safe Policy.

If you reasonably believe[^] any child is in immediate danger of a significant nature, please call 000 to speak with police. You can also contact services such as Parent Helpline, NAPCAN, Lifeline, Kids Helpline and the Raising Children Network.

^{*}Australian Government National Child Office for Child Safety Complaint Handling Guide: Upholding the rights of children and young people – A Reference Guide, 2019.

[#]Commission for Children and Young People – Empowerment and Participation of Children Tip Sheet.

[^] A **reasonable belief** is one that a reasonable person in the same position would have formed on the same grounds.