

## Member Protection and Child Protection

Sharks FC is a child safe sporting club.

That means:

- We have a commitment can to ensure children enjoy their sport in a safe and encouraging environment.
- We have policies and procedures that are child focussed – that means that any decision we take, whether as a Club or as individuals, always has the child’s best interests at heart.
- We are vigilant to any situation or person that may harm a child.
- We will act immediately in accordance with our policies and state legislation when a complaint is made.

We recommend everyone involved with underage teams visit the Play by the Rules Website for more information on how to use Child Safe techniques when coaching or watching kids’ sport - [www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au)

### Member Protection Information Officer

The Club has a Member Protection Information Officer who is Mark Warren. He can be contacted on 0414617806 or email ????

The MPIO has completed the MPIO mandated training through the Australian Sports Commission.

### What happens if you have a grievance or complaint?

The MPIO is your first point of contact if you have a concern, grievance or complaint. He will talk to you confidentially, offer support and guidance and give you options to address and resolve the issue.

Sometimes just getting the aggrieved parties together to talk through their issue will solve the problem. This may arise when a parent disagrees with the decision taken by a coach not to select their child for a particular position or team.

Other times the MPIO will suggest that the matter be more formally investigated. It is then handed to the Club Complaints Officer who will conduct an investigation and report to the Committee. The Committee will then decide on what action to take.

Circumstances when this may arise are when there are continued complaints about the behaviour of a parent, spectator, officials, coach or player, particularly in view of or involving children. Types of behaviour include swearing, verbally abusing others or making threats.

The Committee may decide if the behaviour is serious the person involved, if a member of the Club be banned.

At the more serious end of complaints are involving sexual harassment and sexual abuse. The law requires that any complaint involving alleged sexual abuse is reported immediately to the Police.

### Working With Children Check(WCC)

As you may be aware there are new statutory requirements if you work with children even if you are a volunteer.

They are to be phased in from 1 April 2015.

In summary:

- Any paid worker must have a current WCC (\$80 for five years)
- Any person who is a coach/manager in a direct supervision role of children must have a WCC unless:
  - They are a direct relative of a player in the team;
  - They are under 18 years of age;
  - Match officials or canteen supervisors if there is no direct contact with children in that role.

The Sharks recommends that all coaches and managers of underage teams have a WCC. They are free to volunteers.

Go to Office of Children's Guardian- [www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au)

Mark Warren

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