



KEEPING YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE IN BASKETBALL

All young people involved in basketball should:

- Be able to participate in basketball in a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment.
- Feel accepted and free to be yourself.
- Be able to express and be proud of your culture.
- Be able to contact your parents/caregivers or another adult if you feel upset, unsafe or uncomfortable.
- Be provided with clear directions that encourage and support you. If coaches or officials believe that you have broken any rules they will speak to you about this and, if appropriate, give you a chance to positively change your behaviour.
- Never be physically punished or spoken to in a way that is discriminatory or makes you feel scared or humiliated.

What adults will do to make sure you are safe and enjoy playing basketball

- Basketball Victoria has policies and rules in place to make sure you are safe. We want basketball to be fun as well as a place where you can positively and confidently develop and improve your game.
- Coaches and other adults will try to make sure that training drills and other basketball activities are suitable for your age and ability.
- Basketball Victoria seeks to ensure that adults supervising and supporting you while you are participating in basketball activities are qualified and appropriate.
- You should never be alone with staff, coaches, volunteers or officials where they can't be seen by other adults. Adults involved in basketball cannot friend or contact you on social media (unless they know you and your family outside of basketball).
- Coaches, volunteers and other officials can only take photos or video footage of you if they are doing this for basketball purposes.
- Any incidents of abuse or discrimination towards you or any other young person involved in basketball will be taken seriously. If you need help, speak to basketball employees, official volunteers or referees.

What you can do to make sure basketball is safe and fun:

When you are involved in activities related to basketball, there are also things you can do to ensure everyone feels safe. These include:

- Letting a coach/team manager/parent/caregiver know if you don't feel safe or are worried about the safety of a basketball friend or teammate.
- Treating other participants with respect. This includes ensuring that other young people feel safe around you and that your behaviour does not stop them from playing and enjoying basketball. This applies not only when training or playing basketball, but also outside of basketball and when you are online using social media.
- Following the rules and treating everyone involved with basketball with respect. It is important to listen to and concentrate on what your coaches tell you while you are at training and in games. Remember that coaches are doing their best to support your development as a player.
- Respect the decisions of referees and other officials. If we can't get referees because of bad behaviour by players or spectators, then there are no games.

If you see or experience something that makes you feel unsafe you have the right to say something:

- If at any stage you experience, hear, or see something that makes you or a teammate feel uncomfortable, upset or unsafe you should let your parent/caregiver or an adult in basketball know.
- When trusted adults know what is happening, they can get you or your team mates the help you need to feel safe.
- You can contact the Basketball Victoria Child Safety Advisor on 9837 8000 or via email at child.safety@basketballvictoria.com.au at any time.

What happens if you or your family want to make a complaint:

If something has happened that has made you feel uncomfortable, scared or discriminated against in basketball you can speak to any adult official in basketball who you trust. You can also call Basketball Victoria's Child Safety Officer on 9837 8000 or via email on child.safety@basketballvictoria.com.au.

After you have explained what has happened an adult will tell you what options there are and explain the process to follow. If something serious and illegal has happened to you, an adult may contact Victoria Police or another Government Organisation to make sure you and other young people are safe from harm.

Adults or other young people can also make a complaint about something that they have seen or heard if they are worried that a young person has experienced harm or abuse. They can do this in writing via email or by calling or speaking to a basketball official or Basketball Victoria's Child Safety Officer.

Depending on what the complaint involves, an investigation may occur under the Member Protection Bylaws or where a breach of the Child Safeguarding Policy has occurred. These policies are available on the Basketball Victoria website. If the matter is not one that can easily be resolved or is a more serious incident, it may go to a Basketball Victoria Tribunal. The young person involved, and their family will be supported and informed of what is happening through each step and their options will always be explained. Remember there are several ways to seek support and adults who want to help you feel safe and have fun at basketball.

Basketball Victoria's Child Safety Commitment

Basketball Victoria is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. Our members, volunteers and employees understand that child safety is everyone's responsibility. We have zero tolerance for child abuse or neglect. We are committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect them. This includes but is not limited to the cultural safety of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children, children from diverse cultural, linguistic, and/or religious backgrounds, children who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex (LGBTI), and children with a disability.