

CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

Commitment to Child Safety

Basketball Australia and its Member Organisations are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of Children in basketball by providing a safe and inclusive environment and by ensuring that everyone involved in basketball is educated and informed of their responsibilities to protect and look after Children.

This plan provides practical steps for identifying, assessing, and managing risks to children across all basketball programs, competitions, and events. It is aligned with:

- National Principles for Child Safe Organisations
- National Office for Child Safety Risk Management Guidelines
- Sport Integrity Australia's Child Safeguarding Practices
- BA's Child Safeguarding Policy and Member Protection Policy

2. PRINCIPLES OF CHILD SAFE RISK MANAGEMENT

This section outlines key principles for developing a Child Safe Risk Management Plan that reflects the unique needs and risks within basketball. Each principle is paired with practical considerations to help the basketball community safeguard the sport.

Principle	Basketball Considerations
Establish the context	Identify where and how children interact with basketball (training, games, camps, development programs, travel). What governance and supervision structures exist to prevent harm? Consider children's diverse needs: age, disability, cultural background, trauma history, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
Undertake the risk management plan	Decide on your approach (e.g., annual risk assessment, event-specific checklist). Who will lead it? (e.g., Child Safety Officer, club administrator, event manager). When will it be completed and reviewed?

Consult and communicate	Involve children, parents, coaches, referees, and volunteers when identifying risks. Share the plan through newsletters, parent meetings, and venue signage.
Identify the risks	Consider all risks: physical, psychological, cultural, online, and neglect-related. Include high-risk situations: change rooms, one-on-one coaching, travel, social media use.
Analyse the risks	Assess likelihood (Unlikely, Possible, Likely) and consequence (Minor, Moderate, Great Concern). Prioritise based on high or extreme ratings.
Develop interventions	Put measures in place to prevent or reduce risk. Examples: two-adult supervision, parental consent for travel, training for coaches, monitored messaging apps.
Monitor and review	Keep a register of incidents and near misses. Review quarterly and after major events to update controls.
Designate and manage	Allocate a Child Safety Officer (CSO) at all levels of basketball. Ensure this person is trained, visible, and accessible to children and families.

3. KEY RISKS TO CHILDREN IN BASKETBALL

Children involved in basketball may face a range of risks depending on the environment, people involved, and level of supervision. Identifying these risks is a critical step in creating a safe environment for all children within the sport. The table below outlines key types of harm that can occur in the basketball environment, along with examples to help the basketball community understand and manage potential risks effectively.

Risk Type	Examples
Unintentional/Accidental Harm	Slippery courts, faulty hoops or backboards, inadequate first aid, poor supervision, high-risk drills.
Psychological Harm	Bullying or exclusion from teams, verbal abuse from coaches or referees, public shaming of performance.
Physical Abuse	Rough handling by coaches or peers, inappropriate use of physical contact in drills.
Cultural Abuse	Racial or cultural slurs, failure to respect cultural clothing or religious practices.
Neglect	Children left unsupervised after games, failure to meet medical or dietary needs on trips.
Sexual Abuse & Grooming	Inappropriate touching, sexualised language, unsupervised one-on-one time, private online messaging.
Online Risks	Grooming via team chats, sharing of inappropriate photos, cyberbullying.

4. AREAS OF RISK & CONTROLS

This section outlines key areas where child safety risks may occur in basketball and provides practical controls to help reduce those risks.

Area	Recommended Controls
Safe Environment	Appoint a trained First Aid Officer and maintain stocked first aid kits. Conduct regular facility inspections. Complete risk assessments before competitions, camps, or tournaments. Display child-safe posters and emergency contacts at venues.
Safe Recruitment & Leadership	WWCC and National Police Checks for all roles with children. Reference checks with child-safety

	questions. Signed Code of Conduct before commencing duties. Mandatory child-safety training for coaches, referees, and officials.
Consent & Permissions	Parental consent for travel, photography, and medical treatment. Emergency contact details shared with coaches/managers. Coaches informed of player medical needs.
Electronic Communication	Use only approved, monitored group messaging platforms. No private 1:1 messaging between adults and children. Parents copied into all player communications.
Transportation & Travel	Group transport preferred; avoid single adult-child car trips. Travel logs and written permission from parents. Adequate adult supervision ratios for long trips.
Responding to Disclosures & Allegations	All staff trained to respond appropriately. CSO contact details displayed at venues. Incidents recorded securely in BA's Case Management System (CMS).

5. RISK MATRIX

A helpful approach for individuals responsible for the safety of young athletes in basketball, is to think about the different risks in each environment and how these risks can be mitigated.

The following matrix assists in assessing and prioritising risks based on the likelihood of occurrence and the level of concern if harm occurred and mitigation:

Level of Concern			
Likelihood of Incident Occurring	Minor Concern	Moderate Concern	Great Concern
Likely	Low Risk	High Risk	High Risk
Possible	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk
Unlikely	Low Risk	Low Risk	Medium Risk

The risk assessment template is designed to help identify, assess, and manage potential risks to children involved in basketball activities. It provides support to clubs and associations to take a proactive approach to child safety by planning appropriate controls and managing actions.

Risk Assessment Template

Risk	Examples	Rating	Strategies
<i>The things that could potentially happen. Some of these are more likely and/or more serious than others.</i>	<i>Examples of scenarios within which the risk may occur.</i>	<i>This is how we assess the likelihood AND impact (see key above)</i>	<i>Suggestions on how to address the risk reduce it or prevent it from happening AND strategies to assist you in knowing about it asap if it does happen.</i>
On the courts			
Young athlete is exposed to inappropriate or harmful behaviour by an adult while playing.	Junior referees exposed to verbal abuse from spectators or coaches during a game.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
	Young athlete is racially vilified by the opposing coach during a game.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
Young athlete experiences a health emergency or accidental injury while playing.	Asthma attack, seizure, fall resulting in a bone or muscle injury.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
Off the courts			
Young athlete is exposed to inappropriate or harmful behaviour by an adult.	Young athlete is sexually harassed by a club member who is intoxicated at a club social event.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	

	A young athlete is threatened and experiences homophobic slurs from a member of the public outside the stadium.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
Young athlete is exposed to inappropriate or harmful behaviour by another young athlete.	A young athlete is racially vilified by a teammate at a tournament social event.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
	A young athlete experiences sexist behaviour from another young athlete in the gym.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
In Tournament			
Young athlete is exposed to inappropriate or harmful behaviour by an adult while traveling.	A young athlete is sexually harassed in the hotel bar by an intoxicated member of the public.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
	A young athlete traveling with a group is lost at the airport due to miscommunication from a supervising adult.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
Young athlete is exposed to inappropriate or harmful behaviour by another young athlete while traveling.	A young athlete forces themselves into another young athlete's hotel room and physically assaults them.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
Online			
Young athlete is exposed to inappropriate or harmful behaviour online.	A photo of a junior referee that is uploaded on social media with consent, receives inappropriate or abusive comments by members of the public (people unknown to them) that are threatening, intimidating and offensive.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	
	A coach, official, another adult member or a parent	LOW MEDIUM	

	(someone known to them) engages in inappropriate conduct with a junior online, sending texts and private messages that are sexual and personal.	HIGH	
	A young athlete shares a video of another young athlete online without consent.	LOW MEDIUM HIGH	

6. IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST

We all play a role in protecting the children and young people within our sport. The following checklist is a guide to reduce risk of harm to children in the basketball environment.

- ✓ Appoint a trained Child Safety Officer (CSO) at each level of basketball.
- ✓ Complete written risk assessments for all programs, camps, and major events.
- ✓ Train all staff and volunteers annually in child-safety practices.
- ✓ Display clear reporting pathways at venues and in communications.
- ✓ Review risks quarterly and after any significant incident.

7. MONITORING & REVIEW

The following process is to be followed to sure environments and procedure are continually reviewed and updated.

Quarterly Reports: CSOs report to BA Integrity Unit on incidents, training, and emerging risks.

Annual Audit: Integrity Unit conducts a yearly review of child-safety compliance across all levels.

Continuous Improvement: Feedback from children, parents, and staff integrated into updates