Marlin Coast Rangers Football Club

Child Safeguarding Strategy

Statement of Commitment

Marlin Coast Rangers acknowledges its moral and legal obligation to provide a safe and nurturing environment for all children and young people. We are committed to a culture of vigilance and proactive safety, ensuring that child wellbeing is the primary consideration in all club activities, governance, and decision-making processes.

Strategic Pillars of Child Safety

1. Leadership, Governance, and Culture

Child safety and wellbeing are embedded in the club's leadership and organisational culture. The Committee of Management assumes ultimate responsibility for the implementation of safety standards, ensuring that "child-safe" practices are integrated into the strategic planning and daily operations of the club.

2. The Voice of the Child

The club facilitates an environment where children are informed of their rights and feel empowered to participate in decisions that affect them. We actively seek player input to ensure our programs are inclusive, respectful, and safe from a child's perspective.

3. Family and Community Engagement

We recognize that families and the broader community are vital partners in safeguarding. Marlin Coast Rangers maintains transparent communication channels to ensure parents and guardians are informed of our safety protocols and are encouraged to contribute to the club's wellbeing initiatives.

4. Equity and Diversity

The club is committed to upholding equity and respecting the diverse needs of all participants.

5. Personnel and Recruitment

Human resource practices ensure that all staff and volunteers are suitable for child-related work. This includes mandatory **Working with Children Checks (WWCC)**, comprehensive reference checks, and ongoing supervision to ensure conduct remains aligned with club values.

6. Child-Focused Complaints Management

Marin Coast Rangers maintains a transparent, accessible, and child-focused process for responding to complaints and concerns. We ensure that reporting pathways are clearly defined and that all allegations of harm or abuse are treated with the utmost seriousness and legal compliance.

7. Knowledge, Skills, and Ongoing Education

Staff and volunteers are equipped with the requisite skills to identify, assess, and minimize risks to children. Mandatory induction programs and ongoing professional development ensure that our personnel remain current with best-practice safeguarding standards.

8. Safe Physical and Online Environments

We proactively manage risks within both physical and digital domains.

- **Physical:** Regular risk assessments of facilities, change rooms, and match-day venues.
- **Online:** Stringent protocols governing the use of social media and digital communication to prevent grooming or inappropriate contact.

9. Continuous Improvement

The club adopts a cycle of continuous improvement regarding our safeguarding framework. We regularly review our performance, analyse incident reports, and update our risk management strategies to reflect evolving legislative requirements and community expectations.

10. Policy and Procedures

Our commitment is formalized through a comprehensive suite of policies and procedures. These documents serve as the authoritative guide for all

members, ensuring a consistent and documented approach to maintaining a child-safe organisation.

Authorization > This framework has been formally adopted by the Marlin Coast Rangers Committee of Management and is subject to annual review.

Effective Date: April 2026 **Review Date:** April 2027