



Aberfeldie Jets Basketball Club - Child Safety Guidelines

Our Commitment to Child Safety

1. AJBC is committed to ensuring child safety throughout our organisation by protecting the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people who are members of our Club.
2. This commitment is endorsed at the highest level of the AJBC and applies to all members
3. Recent changes to the law and changes to convention in community attitudes mean that our task is now to inform, train and educate AJBC participants and stakeholders about their responsibilities to child safety.
4. In accordance with its commitment to child safety, AJBC has developed the Aberfeldie Jets Statement of Commitment to Child Protection.

Definitions

“Child/Young Person” means a person under the age of 18.

“Child abuse” is defined in the AJBC Statement of Commitment to Child Protection. Please refer to this Statement if you are unsure of whether particular conduct amounts to “child abuse”.

“AJBC Representative” means an AJBC employee, committee member, volunteer, coach, team manager, or any other person with an official role with the AJBC

Appropriate Conduct and Behaviour

5. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide clear guidance regarding the treatment of children/young people within AJBC. It is designed to ensure a high level of safety to children/young people, and to protect them from abuse and neglect.
6. Children and young people expect and deserve to be safe when participating in AJBC-related activities. These guidelines are intended to support personnel by providing recommendations of standards of care.

Transporting Children/young people

7. Transporting children/young people to or from training or match venues by AJBC Representatives alone is discouraged. However, it is recognised that at times this is not practical. As such, the AJBC recommends that where possible, an AJBC representative does not travel alone with a child/young person in their own or rented vehicles to facilitate AJBC related activity.

8. In such a case, if the driver is not a parent or sibling, then permission must to be sought from the child/young person's parent or guardian, it must be expressly given and it must be given in writing before any transportation is to take place (for example, by email or text) unless it is a case of an emergency.
9. AJBC discourages AJBC coaches from being alone in a vehicle with children/young people. AJBC recommends that another AJBC Representative accompany the driver in a vehicle with children/young people (if possible).

Change Rooms

10. The right to children's privacy must be balanced with their need for safety and protection.
11. The following general principles are considered best practice for use of change rooms used by the Club (as opposed to going to the bathroom):
 - (a) AJBC Representatives and parents where practically possible should not be in one-on-one situations with a child/young person, who is not their own child, when they are changing in a change room;
 - (b) children/young people who identify as transgender (people whose gender identity is different from the sex assigned to them at birth) should be consulted on their preference of change rooms and their wishes respected at all time;
 - (c) where practically possible or appropriate a Buddy System should be implemented, where children/young people go the change room and or bathroom in pairs;
 - (d) male AJBC Representatives must not enter female change rooms and female AJBC Representatives must not enter male change rooms; and
 - (e) there should be no photography of children/young people in a state of undress in the change room or bathroom. If images are taken they must be deleted and destroyed immediately and the person taking the photos should be immediately reported to the AJBC.

Physical contact with children/young people

12. AJBC representatives should avoid all unnecessary physical contact with children/young people.
13. The AJBC understands that some physical contact may be required in the interests of training or coaching the child/young person.
14. AJBC Representatives should avoid contact with a child/young person that:
 - (a) would appear to have a sexual or suggestive connotation or purpose;
 - (b) is intended to cause pain or distress to the child/young person (for example physical discipline);
 - (c) is initiated against the wishes of the child/young person.

Supervision

15. Where practically possible children/young people should not be left unattended at the completion of training or matches.
16. Where possible, AJBC Representatives should try and avoid a situation where they are left alone with a child/young person.

Coaches and Team Managers

17. All Coaches and Team Managers must have a current and valid Working with Children Check.

Photography of Children and young people

18. The following guidelines regarding photographing and/or videoing children are considered best practice by the AJBC:
 - (a) members registering to the AJBC acknowledge that photographs and videos of their child and themselves may be made during games and training sessions and consent that they may be used for promotion of the Club and basketball generally.
 - (b) do not allow the use of camera phones, video cameras or cameras inside changing areas, showers and toilets;
19. Any person taking regular photos and/or video on behalf of AJBC must have a current and valid Working with Children Check.

Use of language

20. The AJBC recommend that the following language/comments are avoided:
 - (a) discriminatory, sexist or racist or homophobic;
 - (b) derogatory, belittling, negative;
 - (c) intended to threaten, frighten or intimidate; and/or
 - (d) profane (swearing).

Sexual Relationships

21. Any sexual behaviour or contact between an AJBC Representative and child/young person is prohibited.

Use, Possession and Supply of Alcohol or Drugs

22. AJBC representatives should act as positive role models to children/young people and as such AJBC representatives are encouraged not to smoke or drink alcohol in front of children/young people.
23. In the case of use, possession and supply of alcohol or drugs (performance enhancing, illicit or prescription drugs), the law is always the minimum and any illegal acts will be referred to the police, without exception.

Electronic communication with children and young people

24. AJBC representatives should keep all communication to issues directly associated with AJBC activities (training and game schedules and information)
25. AJBC acknowledges the emergence of new technology and communication media and wishes to enable electronic and social media to be used to benefit AJBC and its participants.
26. Wherever possible, email, text messages and social media communications sent to a child/young person should be copied to their parent or guardian.
27. AJBC Representatives should not request a child to keep a communication secret from their parents.