

# EQUESTRIAN VICTORIA CHILD SAFE UPDATE

AFFILIATES, VOLUNTEERS AND OFFICIALS

UPDATE NO 1. 7 OCTOBER 2022

From 1st July 2022, the Victorian Government changed the Victorian Child Safe Standards to strengthen protection from child abuse. Key changes include updated WWCC requirements and a review of the events and activities to which The Standards apply.

## An overview of the Standards

- 1.** Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.
- 2.** Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
- 3.** Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
- 4.** Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- 5.** Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
- 6.** People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
- 7.** Processes for complaints and concerns are child focused.
- 8.** Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
- 9.** Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
- 10.** Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.
- 11.** Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

## CHILD SAFE FAQs

### Who must abide by the child safe legislation within Equestrian Victoria activity?

Everyone.

### Which Events/Activity fall under Child Safe Legislation?

All of them.

### Who needs a Working With Children Check (WWCC)?

Any personnel who facilitate at an event or in an equestrian setting in the role of an official, volunteer, or who are employed by an event, must have a WWCC.

This is inclusive of:

- Event Volunteers
- Judges, Stewards
- Course Designers
- Event Organisers
- First Aid
- Vendors, Contractors (only applicable for Interschool events)
- Food trucks (only applicable for Interschool events)
- Photographers

### Who pays for a Working With Children Check (WWCC)?

It is each individual's responsibility to ensure they have a current WWCC. Volunteers can apply for the free volunteer check, whilst paid employees or officials must hold an **employee** check. More information on how to obtain a WWCC can be located on the Working With Children website: [workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals](http://workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals)

You can also download the WWC Status Checker: [workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/about-the-check/resources/status-checker](http://workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/about-the-check/resources/status-checker)

### How do I report observed harmful behavior to children?

Equestrian Victoria adopts a no-tolerance approach to harmful behavior toward children and young people. If such behavior is observed in any capacity, it is imperative a report is made within 24 hours.

Report any breaches to: **Derek Oleary** Email: [ceo@equestrianvictoria.com.au](mailto:ceo@equestrianvictoria.com.au) or **Michelle Debenham** Email: [michelledebenham@equestrianvictoria.com.au](mailto:michelledebenham@equestrianvictoria.com.au)

### Where can I find more information on The Standards?

More information can be found on the Vicsport website: [vicsport.com.au/child-safe-sport](http://vicsport.com.au/child-safe-sport)