

# Elwood Sailing Club

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## GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN

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These guidelines are for volunteers and other personnel to protect them from risk and to keep children safe.

### **Maintain appropriate boundaries**

Volunteers and other personnel in positions of authority should maintain clear:

#### **Physical boundaries**

- Only use physical contact that is appropriate for the development of a particular skill and has the permission of the child
- Work within sight of others at all times

#### **Emotional boundaries**

- Use positive feedback on performance, not negative feedback about the person
- Be encouraging and avoid put-downs

#### **Social boundaries**

- Attend sailing related events such as sponsorship and fundraising events, competitions, training days and celebration but do not socialise with children at these set events
- Do not socialise with children via social media

#### **Sexual boundaries**

- Do not have sexual relationships with sailors you are training or engaging with regardless of age
- Do not touch anyone you are training or engaging with in ways likely to make them feel uncomfortable

#### **Minimise physical contact**

Generally, physical contact with children or participants should be to:

- Develop sailing skills
- Treat an injury
- Prevent or respond to an injury
- Meet the specific requirements of sailing

All physical contact by personnel should fulfil the following criteria:

- Physical contact should be appropriate for the development of a sailing skill/s

- Permission from the child or participant should always be sought
- Children or participants should be congratulated or comforted in public not in an isolated setting

### **Avoid being alone with a child**

To protect yourself and the child from risk:

- Do not isolate yourself and a child and avoid being alone with any particular child
- If a child approaches you and wants to talk to you privately about a matter, do so in an open area and in sight of other adults (e.g. other member, volunteers, officials or parents/guardians)
- Before going into change rooms knock or announce that you will be coming in. Try to have at least one adult with you in a change room with children present