

Elwood Sailing Club

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