



# CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Children's safety matters – putting all the pieces together

## Important Information for Coaches, Managers and Others Working with Children

### Main Responsibilities:

- Promoting and advocating the safety and well-being of children
- Understand how to identify, respond and prevent harm, neglect and abuse of children
- Reporting issues and removing risk to children
- Adhering to Blue Card legislative requirements

### Reporting:

Under Queensland legislation, every adult in Queensland must make a report to police if they reasonably believe a child has been or may be harmed by sexual abuse. If the issue is urgent, please contact 000. Where it is not, the adult must report to the relevant club/league chair or president, who will make a report to police as per the Queensland Rugby League (QRL) [Child & Youth Risk Management Strategy](#) (C&YRMS).

### Protecting:

Any adult (first adult) within the QRL, is required to take active steps to reduce or remove risks of sexual harm to a child, whereby another adult within QRL may cause harm to a child, and it is within the first adult's power to do so.

### Blue Card and Exemption Card:

- No Card, No Start! It is compulsory for all club members working with children to hold a current Blue Card in accordance with the Blue Card Legislation.
- If your card expires then you cannot continue in child related activities until it is renewed. Don't let it expire! Please allow 10 weeks for processing.
- Volunteer Blue Cards are free, and applications or renewals can be completed online.
- It is an offence for people to apply for a Blue Card if they are a 'Restricted Person', have already received a negative notice or could receive a negative notice.

### **Who needs a Blue Card:**

- An employee or volunteer who provides services, activities, supervision or training to children i.e., Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, First Responder or Sports Trainer
- A member of a board/committee including president, treasurer or secretary.

### **Who doesn't need a Blue Card:**

- Parents can volunteer without a Blue Card/Exemption – as long as they aren't a 'Restricted Person' and are only volunteering in an activity with their child.
- Visitors may help out without a Blue Card – but only seven (7) times per calendar year.
- If you are under 18 years and volunteering.

For more information and scenarios see Blue Card Services: Sporting Industry Fact Sheet

## **IMPORTANT NOTES FOR CLUBS**

If a person is exempt from needing a Blue Card, you must take reasonable steps to verify their suitability.

A Restricted Person cannot volunteer or work with children in any capacity.

### **Required Training:**

Before commencing in your volunteer role, you need to complete the Play By The Rules: Child Safeguarding In Sport Induction online training or similar.

### **Change in Details/Circumstances:**

- Staff and volunteers with any change in criminal status/history must immediately let the club president or QRL Member Protection Information Officer know and complete a 'change in Police Information Notification' form issued by Blue Card Services Queensland.
- If your personal details change, you must let us and Blue Card Services know.
- If you no longer wish to be associated with the club, we can 'unlink' your from our organisation and Blue Card Services.

### **Support Services:**

If a child, staff or volunteer needs assistance, please refer to the Support Services Section of the QRL C&YRMS.

### **Handy Links and Documents:**

[Blue Card Online Application](#)

[Renew your Blue Card](#)

[Rights and Obligations of Blue Card holders](#)

[Play By The Rules: Child Safeguarding in Sport Online Course](#)



**For more information see Queensland Rugby League Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy.**