

Dodgeball Federation Australia

Safeguarding Children & Adults Policy



DODGEBALL FEDERATION
AUSTRALIA

The purpose of this policy is to outline the duty and responsibility of staff, volunteers and Members working on behalf of or as Members of Dodgeball Federation Australia (DFA), in relation to Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults.

All children and adults have the right to be safe from harm and must be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Context

For the purpose of this policy 'adult' means a person aged 18 years or over and a Child or Children are under the age of 18.

What do we mean by abuse? Abuse of a vulnerable adult or child may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may occur as a result of a failure to undertake action or appropriate care tasks. It may be an act of neglect or an omission to act, or it may occur where a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which they have not, or cannot, consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the individual.

Reporting The Lead Officer for the DFA for Safeguarding is Tom Hickson. Each National and Continental Federation will have their own designated Lead Officer.

All staff and volunteers have a role to play in safeguarding and protection of children and adults from abusive situations. Child and/or Adult protection is both complex and causes anxiety but dealing appropriately with such concerns is an individual and service responsibility.

It should not be assumed that a Government Social Care Department or the police have no legal right to intervene in a case of child and/or adult abuse.

You must respond to suspicions, information or allegations of abuse, ensure they are reported to Social Services and/or the police if appropriate.

If you suspect abuse, you should consult a senior member of the Organisation, together you will consider the details and decide upon an appropriate action.

Who is included under the heading 'vulnerable adult?'

An Adult (a person aged 18 or over) who 'is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation'.

This could include people with learning disabilities, mental health problems, older people and people with a physical disability or impairment. It is important to include people whose condition and subsequent vulnerability fluctuates. It may include an individual who may be vulnerable as a consequence of their role as a carer in relation to any of the above. It may also include victims of domestic abuse, hate crime and anti social abuse behaviour. The persons' need for additional support to protect themselves may be increased when complicated by additional factors, such as, physical frailty or chronic illness, sensory impairment, challenging behaviour, drug or alcohol problems, social or emotional problems, poverty or homelessness.

Many vulnerable adults may not realise that they are being abused. For instance an elderly person, accepting that they are dependent on their family, may feel that they must tolerate losing control of their finances or their physical environment. They may be reluctant to assert themselves for fear of upsetting their carers or making the situation worse.

The Role of Members, Staff, Volunteers and Directors

All Board Members, Directors, Staff, Volunteers and Members on behalf of the Organisation have a duty to promote the welfare and safety of children and vulnerable adults.

Types of Abuse

Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological, it may be an act of neglect or an omission to act, or it may occur when a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which he or she has not consented, or cannot consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and it may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it.

Physical abuse - including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.

Sexual abuse - including rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the vulnerable adult has not consented, or could not consent or was pressured into consenting.

Psychological abuse - including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.

Financial or material abuse - including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

Neglect and acts of omission - including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.

Discriminatory abuse - including race, sex, culture, religion, politics, that is based on a person's disability, age or sexuality and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment, hate crime. I

Institutional abuse - Institutional abuse although not a separate category of abuse in itself, requires specific mention simply to highlight that adults placed in any kind of care home or day care establishment are potentially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. This can be especially so when care standards and practices fall below an acceptable level as detailed in the contract specification.

Multiple forms of abuse - Multiple forms of abuse may occur in an ongoing relationship or an abusive service setting to one person, or to more than one person at a time, making it important to look beyond single incidents or breaches in standards, to underlying dynamics and patterns of harm.

Any or all of these types of abuse may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent and targeting of vulnerable people, negligence or ignorance.

Domestic abuse 'Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are, or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.' Home Office (United Kingdom) Definition 2004

Procedure in the Event Disclosure It is important that children and vulnerable adults are protected from abuse. All complaints, allegations or suspicions must be taken seriously. This procedure must be followed whenever an allegation of abuse is made or when there is a suspicion that a child or vulnerable adult has been abused. Promises of confidentiality must not be given as this may conflict with the need to ensure the safety and welfare of the individual. A full record shall be made as soon as possible of the nature of the allegation and any other relevant information.

This must include information in relation to the date, the time, the place where the alleged abuse happened, your name and the names of others present, the name of the complainant and, where different, the name of the adult who has allegedly been abused, the nature of the alleged abuse, a description of any injuries observed, the account which has been given of the allegation.