

## Ringwood Basketball Association Child Safety

### Our Commitment

At Ringwood Basketball Association (RBA), the safety, wellbeing, and empowerment of children and young people are our highest priorities. We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for every child involved in our programs, in line with the Victorian Child Safe Standards and Basketball Victoria's policies.

### Why Child Safety Matters

We believe that child safety is a shared responsibility. Every member of our community—coaches, referees, staff, volunteers, players, parents, and supporters—plays a vital role in protecting children from harm and upholding the highest standards of care.

### Our Child Safety Principles

- **Cultural Safety:** We respect and value the diverse identities and experiences of all children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ children.
- **Empowerment:** Children and young people are encouraged to understand their rights, participate in decisions, and speak up about their safety.
- **Family and Community Involvement:** We keep families informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** All children have equal access to safe participation in basketball, with additional support for those with diverse needs.
- **Safe Environments:** We ensure our venues, programs, and online spaces are safe and appropriately supervised.

### Our Child Safety Policies

- **Zero Tolerance for Abuse:** Physical, sexual, emotional, or psychological abuse, neglect, and grooming behaviours are strictly prohibited.
- **Clear Codes of Conduct:** All staff, volunteers, and participants must follow our Codes of Conduct and Basketball Victoria's Code of Conduct.
- **Rigorous Recruitment and Screening:** All adults in child-related roles must hold a valid Victorian Working with Children Check (WWCC) and undergo screening.
- **Training and Education:** Regular training ensures everyone understands their responsibilities and how to respond to concerns.
- **Safe Communication:** Electronic communication with children is strictly limited to association matters and must follow our guidelines.
- **Supervision:** Children are always actively supervised at games, training, and events.

## Reporting Concerns

If you have a concern about child safety, or if a child discloses abuse or inappropriate behaviour, it is your duty to report it immediately. All reports are taken seriously, managed confidentially, and responded to appropriately.

Contact our Child Safety and Wellbeing Officers:

Matthew Swansson (VBRA)

Phone: 0400 339 902

Email: ringwoodreferees@gmail.com

Leah du Plooy (VJBL/BIGV)

Phone: 0403 685 785

Email: wellbeing@ringwoodbasketball.com

If a child is at immediate risk, call 000 (Triple Zero).

## What Happens When You Report?

- All concerns are managed by our Child Safety and Wellbeing Officers.
- Reports may be escalated to Basketball Victoria, Victoria Police, Child Protection, or other authorities as required.
- We do not tolerate victimisation or retaliation against anyone who raises a concern.

## Support and Privacy

We provide support to children, families, staff, and volunteers involved in any child safety matter. All personal information is handled with care and in accordance with privacy laws.

## Learn More

Basketball Victoria Code of Conduct:

<https://www.basketballvictoria.com.au/integrity/code-of-conduct>

Working with Children Check Victoria: <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

For more information, feedback, or to view our full Child Safety Policy, please contact our Child Safety and Wellbeing Officers. [Link to Ringwood Policy](#)

Together, we can ensure that Ringwood Basketball Association remains a safe, inclusive, and positive environment for all children and young people.