



EASTERN REGION JUNIOR SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
(ERJSA)

Child Safe Information

Responsible Person and Parent Resource

January 2025

# Eastern Region Junior Soccer Association (ERJSA)

## Child Safe Information

### Responsible Person and Parent Resource

The Eastern Region Junior Soccer Association is committed to child safety and your role is essential in ensuring that children are safe and enjoy their time playing soccer on game day. This covers game day and any other event that the Eastern Region Junior Soccer Association organises. These child safety guidelines are provided for you to ensure that you understand your role and responsibility to create a secure environment where children are safe and protected.

### Linked resources

- Code of Conduct – ERJSA website Parent Information tab
- Strong Families Safe Kids – Tasmanian government website
- Mandatory Reporting of child abuse or harm – Hobart Community Legal Service Inc.

### What is Child Safety?

- Child safety refers to the measures taken to protect young participants from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and to promote their well-being and development.

### Importance of Child Safety

- Ensures the safety and well-being of participants.
- Promotes a positive and supportive environment.
- Builds trust among participants, parents, and the community.

### Principles

- The best interests of the child are the primary consideration.
- All children have the right to protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Everyone has a responsibility to safeguard children.

### Recognising Potential Signs of Abuse and Neglect

#### *Types of Abuse*

- Physical abuse: Intentional use of physical force that can result in injury.
- Emotional abuse: Actions that harm a child's self-esteem or emotional well-being.
- Sexual abuse: Any sexual activity with a child.
- Neglect: Failure to provide for a child's basic needs.

#### *Key Indicators*

- Physical abuse: Unexplained injuries, bruises, or burns.
- Emotional abuse: Excessive withdrawal, fear, or anxiety.
- Sexual abuse: Inappropriate sexual behaviour or knowledge.
- Neglect: Poor hygiene, malnutrition, or unattended medical needs.

## Coach Behaviours

- Be aware of the mandatory reporting requirements relating to child abuse or harm (Strong Families Safe Kids and Hobart Community Legal Service websites for further information).
- Be aware of your club processes in relation to child safety and follow them.
- Treat all children with respect and dignity.
- Be a positive role model.
- Avoid one-on-one situations with children in private settings.
- Never use physical punishment or inappropriate language.
- Ensure all players participate for fun and learning.
- Never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Be reasonable in your demands on a player's time, energy, and enthusiasm.
- Always operate within the rules and spirit of the game and teach your players to do the same.
- Display control and respect to all involved in the sport.
- Allow players to play and learn from their own mistakes.
- Ensure fair play and provide equal game time to all players.

## Prohibited Behaviours

- Physical or verbal abuse.
- Inappropriate touching or gestures.
- Engaging in any form of bullying or harassment.

## Parent, Guardian, and Spectator Behaviours

- Be aware of the mandatory reporting requirements relating to child abuse or harm (Strong Families Safe Kids and Hobart Community Legal Service websites for further information).
- Be aware of your club processes in relation to child safety and follow them.
- Unless you are the coach - avoid coaching your child during games.
- Stay clear of game areas and remain at least 1m back from the sideline.
- Cheer on and always encourage players, even the opposition, and applaud good soccer all-around.
- Remember that children play soccer for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to participate but do not force them.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do the same.
- Promote fair play and a positive environment.
- Respect the decisions of the Match Officials.
- Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of every person regardless of their race, colour, religion, language, ability, politics, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin.
- Do not engage in the use of violence in any form.
- Do not engage in discrimination, harassment, or abuse in any form.
- Do not enter the field of play or its surrounds without lawful authority.

- Conduct yourself in a manner that enhances the reputation and goodwill of your club, the Eastern Region Junior Soccer Association, Football Tasmania (FT), Football Australia (FA), and soccer generally.
- Support fair play and the enjoyment of the game for all participants.

## Venue Safety

- Ensuring Physical Safety
- Conduct regular inspections of the venue to identify and mitigate potential hazards.
- Ensure all play areas are safe and properly maintained.

## Reporting Procedures

- Immediate danger: If a child is in immediate danger, call emergency services.
- Non-emergency concerns: Report to your club for further guidance in the first instance. If you are not able to do this you should make a report to the ERJSA by email on [admin@erjsa.com](mailto:admin@erjsa.com) including detailed information identify what occurred or you have observed, the child's name and details, along with any action you have taken.

All reports will be handled confidentially, and the ERJSA will seek to provide appropriate support to those who report concerns.

## Contact Information

For any questions or further information, please contact your club in the first instance or the ERJSA officers of the association – President, Vice President, Treasurer, and/or Secretary on [admin@erjsa.com](mailto:admin@erjsa.com) or by the association Facebook Messenger chat. Do not include personal or private information in the Facebook Messenger chat, but you may request contact and include your contact details including a brief description.