

PART B: GYMNASTICS NSW CHILD PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

Background

Child Protection is about keeping children safe from abuse and protecting them from people who are unsuitable to work with children. Child abuse is illegal in all states and territories of Australia, with each having their own child protection laws that cover the reporting and investigation of cases of child abuse.

In New South Wales child protection legislation places specific requirements upon individuals and organisations involved in a range of areas including sport and recreation.

Please be aware that the state child protection requirements also apply to individuals and organisations originating outside of New South Wales. For example, if we, or an affiliated club take junior players to Queensland for a training camp, competition or other activity, those travelling with the team must comply with the Queensland legislative requirements.

As part of the Gymnastics NSW commitment to protecting the safety and welfare of children and young people involved in Gymnastics NSW activities, Gymnastics NSW requires the following measures to be met.

- Provide opportunities for juniors to contribute to and provide feedback on program development;
- Provide education and/or information on child abuse and child protection to those involved in our sport such as coaches, juniors, parents and officials; and
- Meet the requirements outlined in B1

Attachment B1: NEW SOUTH WALES REQUIREMENTS FOR CHECKING PEOPLE TO WORK WITH CHILDREN

This information is subject to change at any time. Refer to the NSW Commission for Children and Young People website: www.kids.nsw.gov.au or contact 02 9286 7219.

All NSW clubs and associations who engage/employ people in child-related activities (in a paid or voluntary capacity) must meet the requirements of the Working With Children Check. This is a legal requirement. We are required to:

1. Register with the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation Employment Screening Unit;
2. Identify positions (paid and voluntary) which are **child-related positions**;
3. Obtain a Prohibited Employment Declaration (PED) from all existing employees in child-related positions. PED forms can be downloaded from www.kids.nsw.gov.au/check/resources.html or alternatively may be found at attachment B3. If the person is a **prohibited person** we must remove him/her from the child-related employment;
4. Keep the PED in a secure place for as long as the person is employed;
5. Ask preferred applicants for paid child-related positions to sign a Consent Form for a background check;
6. Include advice about the Working With Children Check in information being provided about child-related positions (e.g. coach of junior team);
7. Request a background check for preferred applicants for paid child-related employment before they start work;
8. Decide whether to offer the applicant the position, taking into account the result of the Working With Children Check and any other information we have available;
9. Where it is not practical to complete the background check prior to employment commencing, we must still complete the check as soon as possible. We must advise employees that their ongoing employment is conditional upon the satisfactory outcome of the check;
10. Notify the NSW Commission for Children and Young People of any person whose application for child-related employment has been rejected primarily because of a risk assessment in the Working With Children Check. We must do this even if we offer the person an alternative position;
11. Advise the person if their application was rejected primarily because of an adverse risk assessment in the Working With Children Check;
12. Notify the NSW Commission for Children and Young People of any person against whom **relevant employment proceedings** have been completed; and
13. Protect the privacy of any person who is checked and the confidentiality of any information obtained through the checking process.

Child-related employment is any work (paid or unpaid) that involves direct and unsupervised contact with children in several types of areas such as sporting clubs and associations that have a significant child membership or involvement.

Employment includes work done:

- under a contract of employment;
- as a sub-contractor;
- as a volunteer for an organisation;
- as a minister of religion (whether or not ordained); and
- undertaking practical training as part of an educational or vocational course

Prohibited person is a person convicted of committing a serious sex offence or a registrable person.

Registrable person is someone who has been found guilty of the following offences against children:

- murder
- sexual offences
- indecency offences

- kidnapping
- child prostitution
- child pornography

Relevant employment proceedings are disciplinary proceedings completed in NSW, or elsewhere, where an employer or professional body that supervises the conduct of the employee has found that **'reportable conduct'** or an act of violence occurred, or there is some evidence that it occurred. An act of violence will be relevant only if it was committed by an employee in the course of employment and in the presence of a child.

Reportable conduct is:

- any sexual offence, or sexual misconduct, committed against, with or in the presence of a child (including a child pornography offence);
- any assault, ill treatment or neglect of a child; or
- any behaviour that causes psychological harm to a child.

Attachment B2: WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK EMPLOYMENT SCREENING CONSENT FORM

This form is to be completed by persons whose names are to be submitted for employment screening as part of the Working With Children Check.

- **No background checks can be completed on a person without this consent being provided.**
- **Employers are required to sight applicant's original identifying documents.**
- **All fields must be completed in block letters**

Surname: _____ Given name(s): _____

Previous names/aliases: _____ Date of birth: _____

Place of birth (city, state, country): _____

Driver's licence number: _____ Gender: (Please tick) Male Female

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Contact telephone number: _____

Type of position: (Please tick) Paid employee Volunteer Student placement

Title of position applied for: _____

I certify that the above information is accurate and understand that if I have provided false or misleading information it may result in a decision not to employ me, or, if already employed, may lead to my dismissal.

I am aware that if considered for employment in a child-related position, several checks will be undertaken to ascertain my suitability, including:

1. a national criminal record check for charges and/or convictions (including spent convictions) for:
 - any sexual offence (including but not limited to, sexual assault, acts of indecency, child pornography, child prostitution and carnal knowledge);
 - any assault, ill treatment or neglect of, or psychological harm to a child;
 - any registrable offence;carrying a minimum penalty of 12 months or more imprisonment.

I understand that this check includes convictions or charges that:

- may have not been heard or finalised by a court;
- are proven but have not led to a conviction; or
- have been dismissed, withdrawn or discharged by a court.

2. a check for relevant Apprehended Violence Orders taken out by a police officer or other public official for the protection of a child/ren; and

3. a check for relevant employment proceedings involving reportable conduct or an act of violence committed by the employee in the course of employment and in the presence of children. Reportable conduct means any sexual offence, or sexual misconduct committed against, with or in the presence of a child (including a child pornography offence), or any assault, ill treatment or neglect of a child, or any behaviour that causes psychological harm to a child.

I understand that a conviction for a serious sex offence (including, but not limited to, sexual assault, acts of indecency, child pornography, child prostitution and carnal knowledge) will automatically prohibit my employment in a child-related position. This includes a charge that is proven in court but does not proceed to a conviction. I am aware that if I am a "registrable person" under the *Child Protection (Registrable Offenders) Act, 2000*, I am prohibited from employment in a child-related position.

I consent to these checks being conducted and am aware that if any relevant record is identified, additional information relating to that record may be sought by an Approved Screening Agency from sources such as courts, police, prosecutors and past employers to enable a full and informed assessment.

I acknowledge that:

- (i) any information obtained as part of this process may be used by Australian Police Services for law enforcement purposes, including the investigation of any outstanding criminal offences;
- (ii) the outcome of assessment of information obtained through the Working with Children Check by the approved screening agency may be provided to my current or prospective employers only for background checking purposes; and
- (iii) the information provided may be referred to the Commission for Children and Young People and/or to NSW Police for law enforcement purposes and for monitoring and auditing compliance with the procedures and standards for employment screening in accordance with Section 36 (1) (f) of the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*.
- (iv) the above information and any information obtained during employment screening may be collected and used by and/or disclosed to the Commission for Children and Young People or any Approved Screening Agency for employment screening purposes.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: This form is to be retained by Gymnastics NSW

Attachment B3: WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK PROHIBITED EMPLOYMENT DECLARATION

CHILD PROTECTION (PROHIBITED EMPLOYMENT) ACT 1998

The *Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998* makes it an offence for a person convicted of a serious sex offence (a Prohibited Person) or a Registrable Person under the *Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000*, to apply for, undertake or remain in, child-related employment. It does not apply if an order, from the Industrial Relations Commission or the Administrative Decisions Tribunal or the Commission for Children and Young People, declares that the Act does not apply to a person in respect of a specific offence. Section 5 of the *Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998* defines a serious sex offence as:

- an offence involving sexual activity or acts of indecency that was committed in NSW and that was punishable by penal servitude or imprisonment for 12 months or more, even if the sentence was not served; or
- an offence involving sexual activity or acts of indecency that was committed elsewhere and that would have been punishable by penal servitude or imprisonment for 12 months or more if it had been committed in NSW; or
- an offence under Sections 91D-91G (other than if committed by a child prostitute) and 578B or 578C(2A) of the *Crimes Act 1900* or a similar offence under a law other than a law of NSW; or
- an offence of attempting, or of conspiracy or incitement, to commit an offence referred to in the preceding paragraphs; or
- any other offence prescribed by the regulations.

Note: A conviction for carnal knowledge is classified as a serious sex offence under this legislation.

Child-related employment means any employment, where at least one of the essential duties of the position, involves direct contact with children where that contact is not directly supervised. Section 3 of the *Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998* specifies that child-related employment is employment:

- involving the provision of child protection services;
- in pre-schools, kindergartens and child care centres (including residential child care centres);
- in schools or other educational institutions (not including universities);
- in detention centres (within the meaning of the *Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987*);
- in refuges used by children;
- in wards of public or private hospitals in which children are patients;
- in clubs, associations or movements (including of a cultural, recreational or sporting nature) having a significant child membership;
- in any religious organisation;
- in any entertainment venues where the clientele is primarily children;
- as a babysitter or childminder that is arranged by a commercial agency;
- involving fostering or other child care;
- involving regular provision of taxi services for the transport of children with a disability;
- involving the private tuition of children;
- involving the direct provision of health services;
- involving the provision of counselling or other support services for children;
- on school buses;
- at overnight camps for children;
- any other prescribed by regulation.

Under this Act:

- it is an offence for a Prohibited Person to **apply for, undertake or remain in** child-related employment;
- employers **must** ask existing employees, both **paid** and **unpaid**, and preferred applicants for employment to declare if they are a Prohibited Person or not;
- all child-related employees **must** inform their employers if they are a Prohibited Person or remove themselves from child-related employment. A Prohibited Person is someone who has been convicted of a serious sexual offence or, who has had a finding for a charge of a serious sexual offence proven in court, even if a conviction was not recorded;

- penalties are imposed for non compliance.

I am aware that I am ineligible to apply for, undertake or remain in, child-related employment if I have been convicted of a serious sex offence as defined in the *Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998* or if I am a Registrable Person under the *Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000*.

I have read and understood the above information in relation to the *Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998*. I am aware that it is an offence to make a false statement on this form.

I declare that I am not a person prohibited by the Act from seeking, undertaking or remaining in child-related employment.

I understand that this information may be referred to the Commission for Children and Young People and/or to NSW Police for law enforcement purposes and for monitoring and auditing compliance with the procedures and standards for employment screening in accordance with Section 36 (1) (f) of the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____ Contact telephone number: _____

Note: Seek legal advice if you are unsure of your status as a Prohibited Person.

THIS FORM IS TO BE RETURNED TO YOUR EMPLOYER