

## GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN

These guidelines are for coaches and other personnel to protect them from risk and to keep children safe. These guidelines have been sourced from [PlaybytheRules.net.au](https://www.playbytherules.net.au) and adapted to suit Melbourne Central Basketball Association (<https://www.playbytherules.net.au/resources/templates/interacting-with-children-guidelines>).

### **Maintain appropriate boundaries**

Coaches and other personnel in positions of authority should maintain clear:

#### **Physical boundaries**

- Use drills to develop fitness and skills of athletes
- Only use physical contact that is appropriate for the development of a particular skill and has the permission of the athlete
- Work within sight of others at all times

#### **Emotional boundaries**

- Use positive feedback on performance, not negative feedback about the person
- Be encouraging and avoid put-downs (i.e. (verbal or physical) threats, public criticism designed to humiliate, derogatory references/names, etc)

#### **Social boundaries**

- Attend basketball related events such as sponsorship and fundraising events, celebrations and annual meetings but do not socialise with athletes outside basketball functions
- Do not socialise with athletes via social media

#### **Sexual boundaries**

- Do not have sexual relationships with athletes you are coaching
- Do not touch athletes in ways likely to make them feel uncomfortable

#### **Minimise physical contact**

Generally, physical contact with players or participants should be to:

- Develop basketball and fitness skills
- Treat an injury
- Prevent or respond to an injury
- Meet the specific requirements of the sport

All physical contact by personnel should fulfil the following criteria:

- Physical contact should be appropriate for the development of a basketball or fitness skill/s
- Permission from the player or participant should always be sought
- Players or participants should be congratulated or comforted in public not in an isolated setting

### **Avoid being alone with a child**

To protect yourself and the child from risk:

- Do not isolate yourself and a child and avoid being alone with any child
- If a child approaches you and wants to talk to you privately about a matter, do so in an open area and in sight of other adults (e.g. other coaches, officials or parents/guardians)
- Before going into change rooms knock or announce that you will be coming in. Try to have at least one adult with you in a change room with children
- If a child/player requests to be driven by a coach to a game the coach is required to ensure another adult is present in car and they are not alone with a child. This applies to tournaments as well as regular season.

<b>APPROVAL / VERSION CONTROL</b>	
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