

Edgeworth & District Little Athletics Centre (EDLAC)

Child Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

Edgeworth & District Little Athletics Centre (EDLAC) is committed to creating a fair, safe, positive, and inclusive environment for all children participating in our programs. We have zero tolerance for child abuse and neglect and uphold all national and state child protection laws. The EDLAC Integrity Framework is made up of three key policies:

- Complaints, Disputes, and Discipline Policy,
- This Child Safeguarding Policy, and
- The Member Protection Policy.

These policies collectively define behaviours that are unacceptable, known as Prohibited Conduct, and outline how concerns will be addressed.

This Policy is based on and adapted from the Little Athletics Australia Integrity Framework – Child Safeguarding Policy, to suit the operations and requirements of Edgeworth & District Little Athletics Centre (EDLAC).

Nothing in this framework overrides the EDLAC Constitution or the laws of the Commonwealth, State, or Territory, which take precedence and must be complied with in the first instance.

This Policy outlines the process for managing and resolving allegations

2. Our Child Safe Commitment

Children First: All children have the right to feel safe and be safe.

Inclusive Environment: We celebrate diversity, respecting children of all backgrounds, abilities, and identities.

Zero Tolerance: Abuse, bullying, grooming, or neglect are strictly prohibited.

Continuous Improvement: We regularly review our policies to stay current with best practice and legislative updates.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to:

All EDLAC volunteers, officials, coaches, committee members, contractors, and any other persons involved in the delivery of Little Athletics activities.

All activities conducted under Edgeworth & District Little Athletics Centre's name, including training, competition, travel, and events.

4. Responsibilities

Everyone involved with Edgeworth & District Little Athletics centre must:

- Report suspected child abuse or misconduct immediately.
- Follow our Code of Conduct and Child Safe Practices.
- Comply with Working with Children Check (WWCC) requirements.
- Participate in training and inductions regarding child safety.
- Maintain professional boundaries with children at all times.

5. Prohibited Conduct

At Edgeworth & District Little Athletics Centre, the following behaviours are strictly prohibited:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional or psychological abuse
- Sexual misconduct
- Grooming
- Supplying alcohol, drugs, or tobacco to children
- Inappropriate private communications with children (including electronic)
- One-on-one unsupervised interactions without approval

6. Reporting Concerns

If a child is in immediate danger:

- Call 000 (Emergency services).

If you suspect abuse, harm, or misconduct:

- Report it immediately to the EDLAC Child Protection Officer and/or Centre President. The Centre must also report serious allegations to Police and/or Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) in NSW. Complete an Incident Report Form (available from the Committee).
- Report to the Child Protection Hotline- 13 21 11

All reports will be handled confidentially, fairly, and in line with legal obligations.

7. Recruitment and Screening

Edgeworth & District Little Athletics Centre will:

- Require Working With Children Check (WWCC) clearance for all volunteers and staff working directly with children.
- All committee members must hold a valid (paid or volunteer) WWCC.
- Conduct interviews, reference checks, and screening for new volunteers/staff. Review WWCC clearances regularly.

8. Review

This policy will be reviewed **annually** by the Edgeworth & District Little Athletics Centre Committee or when:

- Legislative changes occur, or
- An incident highlights the need for change.

Approved by: EDLAC Committee Effective Date: 29/07/2025

Review Date: 24/05/2026