



# TRANSPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SPORT

*For the purpose of this document, the reference to children and young people refers to any person under the age of 18.*

Transporting children and young people to and from their sport safely can present challenges for sporting organisations. Many clubs and organisations rely on the good will of volunteers and parents/carers to transport children and young people to and from their sporting activities.

Although the vast majority of people involved in sport do so to genuinely make a positive contribution to the lives of children and young people, the unfortunate reality is that a small minority of adults will join a sporting club or organisation to gain access to children and young people to harm them, and evidence has shown that these people often use the time transporting children to and from sporting events as an opportunity to groom or abuse children and young people.

To protect children and young people from this, your sport's Child Safeguarding Policy requires:

**Volunteers and staff of the sporting club or organisation should not transport children and/or young people, other than their own, in their car without prior written consent from the child/young person's parent/carer.**

This is a key Child/Young Person Safe Practice due to the significant risks to children and young people.

It is reasonable for clubs and organisations to place full responsibility on parents/carers to transport their child/young person to and from their sport. It is not the responsibility of the sport to provide ongoing transport for their participants, however there may be times when the sport will need to organise transport for their participants to attend an event or activity.

This document outlines the Child/Young Person Safe Practices that should be implemented under a range of circumstances including:

- [Expectations When Transporting Children and Young People](#)
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## Expectations When Transporting Children and Young People

The following Child/Young Person Safe Practices should always be implemented when transporting children and young people:

- The driver must have a roadworthy and registered vehicle, a valid driver licence and vehicle insurance prior to transporting children and young people.
- The driver is required to follow the specified route agreed with the parents/carers. The journey is not to include any unplanned stops or detours.
- The driver must not be under the influence of any alcohol or illicit drugs while transporting children and young people.
- The driver must have a working mobile telephone and have the contact numbers of the parent(s)/carer(s) of each child/young person they are transporting. Ideally, they should also have the contact details for an alternative approved person, should they be unable to contact the primary parent/carer.
- All children and young people are to be seated in the back seat/s of the vehicle (where possible) and wear a seat belt or child restraint according to their legal age requirement.
- Each state and territory is responsible for setting laws that govern the wearing of seatbelts, for more information refer to your relevant state/territory.
- Parent(s)/carer(s) are encouraged to talk to their child/young person about the transport arrangements to check that they feel comfortable with the plans.
- Best practice is to avoid one adult transporting a child/young person or children/young people alone.

## Club/Organisation Arranged Transportation of Children and Young People

When a club/organisation is arranging transportation of children and young people, for example for away trips or trips to and from venues whilst on overnight trips, clubs should implement the following practices **in addition to the expectations listed above**:

- Parent(s)/carer(s) **must provide consent for their child/young person to be transported in writing.** Depending on the circumstances, consent may be via a consent form, or through electronic communications, such as an email or instant message.
- The club/organisation is to provide full details of the journey to the parent/carer including:
  - Form of transport
  - Reason for the journey
  - Route to be followed, including any stops or side trips
  - Pick-up and drop-off places and times
  - Details of adults who will be present during the journey
  - Contact person and contact number



- Outside of emergency situations, children and young people should only be transported in circumstances that are directly related to the delivery of the sporting program.
- The driver, like all coaches or volunteers, should have a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC) (or equivalent (in your state/territory)).

## Transporting Children and Young People in Emergency and Unforeseen Circumstances

An emergency or unforeseen circumstance refers to any situation where pre-planned transportation becomes unavailable and all other alternatives have been exhausted, such as, a parent/carer not picking up their child/young person.

If an emergency or unforeseen situation occurs that requires a child/young person to be transported alone, the following practices should be implemented **in addition to the expectations listed above**.

- Prior to transporting the child/young person, contact should be made with the parent/carer to inform them of the situation. If contact cannot be made with the parent/carer, a club/organisation staff member or volunteer should be contacted.
- Confirm departure and arrival time.
- The child/young person should be seated in the back seat with their seat belt fastened.
- The driver is to go directly to the drop-off location, no stops or detours should occur.

## Regular Carpooling of Children and Young People

The ongoing transport of children and young people to and from sporting activities is the responsibility of the parent/carer. Where parents/carers organise for their child/young person to be transported with another parent/carer, it is recommended that the following practices be implemented **in addition to the expectations listed above**:

- Provide written consent for their child/young person to be transported, this could be as simple as an instant message.
- Confirm pick-up and drop-off times and locations.

Where practical parents/carers should also:

- Alternate which child is dropped off last. This would reduce the risk of any one individual frequently being alone with a child/young person.
- Alternate the person transporting the children/young people, this would again reduce the risk of any one individual frequently being alone with a child/young person.
- Communicate any delays/changes to the agreed pick-up or drop-off prior to transporting the child/young person.



## Seatbelts

Children and young people are to always wear seatbelts when travelling in a car. Each state and territory in Australia have their own legislation that govern the wearing of seat belts and how they relate to children.

Generally speaking, children up to the age of 7 must use either an approved forward-facing child safety seat with an inbuilt harness, or a booster seat with a properly fastened and adjusted lap-sash seatbelt or child safety harness. Children over 7 years of age must use either an approved child restraint (a child safety seat or booster seat depending on their size), or a seatbelt that is properly adjusted and fastened.

Although the requirements are based on age, the weight and height of the child should also be considered to ensure that the child is securely restrained.

Vehicles that are legally roadworthy without the requirement for seatbelts due to their age **should not be used** to transport children and young people.

## Consulting Children and Young People

Once children and young people reach an appropriate age, they should be consulted about their transportation to and from sport through an open and informative dialogue to make sure:

- They are comfortable with their transport arrangements.
- They are aware of their right to be safe while being transported.
- They understand what is and isn't okay while being transported.
- They know who they can talk to if they have any concerns.

## Contact us

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