

Worksheet 2: Follow the Code of Conduct

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Key points:

All members should be made aware of the General Code of Conduct and the Code of Conduct for Persons in Positions of Authority in Dealing with Children or Young People. Both of these Codes can be found in the SLSA Member Protection Policy 6.05, Appendix B. These Codes represent the minimum standards of member behaviour and must be complied with at all times.

Codes of Conduct to Support our Commitment to Safeguarding Children and Young People

An important second step in the safeguarding process is the formalisation of Codes of Conduct that clearly articulate the minimum expectations and standards of behaviour by people involved with SLS.

Why are Codes of Conduct important?

Codes of Conduct are an important communication tool in setting out the values of SLS and providing clear expectations of:

- Personal and professional boundaries
- Ethical behaviour
- Appropriate and inappropriate behaviour and relationships of staff, volunteers, parents, children.

Integrating the Safeguarding Program into our Member Protection Policy

SLSA recognises the importance of our safeguarding initiatives to be integrated into SLS way of doing things, rather than being a stand-alone initiative. As such, SLSA has integrated the Safeguarding Program into our overarching Member Protection Policy (MPP) (section 6.05), and two Codes of Conduct included in the MPP directly support our commitment to safeguarding children and young people, including:

- **The General Code of Conduct:** Our General Code of Conduct addresses expectations of respect, ethics, professionalism, complying with SLSA rules, policies and procedures, reporting breaches of the Safeguarding Program, being a positive role model and others listed in SLSA Member Protection Policy Appendix B (3.5.1)
- **The Code of Conduct for People in Positions of Authority when Dealing with Children or Young People:** SLSA developed this Code to support the Safeguarding Program. This is in line with best-practice approaches to safeguarding children and young people, in which it is suggested that specific codes of conduct be developed for specific stakeholders. This Code outlines the behavioural standards required by SLS with conduct involving supervision of children and young people, and covers expectations around positive guidance, overnight stays, language, adhering to role boundaries, transporting children, use of electronic communication, change rooms, photographs, physical contact, sexual misconduct, gift giving, wearing uniforms and use of alcohol or drugs.

Your Club's Role in Promoting and Encouraging Adherence with the Codes of Conduct

It is your club's responsibility to continuously promote awareness and encourage adherence with the General Code of Conduct and the Code of Conduct for People in Positions of Authority when Dealing with Children or Young People. You can find these documents in the SLSA Member Protection Policy Appendix B (3.5.1 and 3.5.2).

Action Plan

We encourage your club to think about ways to promote awareness and encourage adherence with the two Codes of Conduct. Some strategies include:

- Create links to the Codes somewhere prominent on your club website
- Ensure you draw attention to the Codes at sign-on days and member functions. Make sure you outline the Codes that exist, why they are important, and ways that members might report on any conduct issues that might arise
- Promote the Codes, their importance and grievance procedures in your club newsletter and/or via social media
- Continuously reflect on club practice to ensure the Codes are adhered to at all times (or instance, your club committee may consider including Codes of Conduct as a regular agenda item to review practice and identify any areas of conduct to be addressed within the club).

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