

SHCV CHILD SAFE CODE OF CONDUCT

February 2018

INTRODUCTION

Under the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005*, Victoria introduced compulsory minimum standards for organisations that provide services for children to help ensure the safety of children. As from 1 January 2017, Phase 2 of in scope organisations included those that provide *cultural, sport or recreation services for children, charities and not-for-profit organisations providing services to children, and coaching or tuition services for children*. As these services are provided to children by the Show Horse Council of Victoria Inc. (SHCV), the SHCV has developed a Child Safe Code of Conduct for volunteers, instructors, judges and executive members

The SHCV is committed to building an environment where children feel respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential by embedding a culture of child safety throughout the organisation.

The Code of Conduct informs parents, carers, legal guardians and other persons associated with the SHCV of what behaviour they can expect from the SHCV volunteers, instructors, judges and executive members.

CHILD SAFE CODE OF CONDUCT

All volunteers, instructors, judges and executive members of the SHCV are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children.

All members of the SHCV are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:

- Adhering to the SHCV Child Safe Policy at all times
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Treating everyone with respect
- Listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child has been abused and/or worried about their safety or the safety of another
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability
- Ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not left alone with child
- Reporting an allegation of child abuse to the SHCV Executive and ensure that any allegation is reported to the police or child protection
- Reporting any child safety concerns to the SHCV Executive
- If an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child is safe
- Encouraging children to 'have a say' and participate in all relevant organisational activities where possible, especially on issues that are important to them

Volunteers, instructors, judges and executive members must not:

- Develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism
- Exhibit behaviour with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical
- Put children at risk of abuse. E.g. Locking doors
- Do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- Engage in open discussion of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children (for example, personal social activities)
- Use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- Express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
- Discriminate against any child, including because of culture, race, ethnicity or disability
- Have contact with a child outside our organisation without the consent of the child's parent or legal guardian. Accidental contact, such as seeing someone in the street, is appropriate.
- Have online contact with a child outside our organisation without the consent of the child's parent or legal guardian
- Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- In the presence of children, a judge assigned to officiate is to be supervised by a steward, ringmaster, a member of the SHCV Executive or a person assigned by the SHCV Executive
- In the presence of children, an instructor is to be supervised by a parent, a member of the SHCV Executive or a person assigned by the SHCV Executive.
- In the presence of children, a volunteer is to be supervised by a parent, steward, ringmaster, a member of the SHCV Executive or a person assigned by the SHCV Executive

By observing these standards, you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this Code to the SHCV Executive.

I agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct.

Name

Signature

Date