

SHOW HORSE COLLECTIVE VICTORIA

S H C V

Child Safety Policy

Standards, screening and reporting to protect children involved with SHCV

Show Horse Collective Victoria

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This policy forms part of the SHCV governance document suite and is to be read together with the SHCV Competition Rules and related SHCV policies.

1. Purpose and Commitment

SHCV is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people (under 18 years) who take part in, or attend, SHCV events, whether as riders, handlers, siblings or spectators. This Policy sets out the standards of behaviour, screening and reporting that apply to protect children involved with SHCV, and applies to every official, judge, steward, coach, volunteer, handler and member.

2. Scope

This Policy applies at every SHCV event and in every SHCV-related interaction involving a child, including but not limited to, Leading Rein, First Ridden, Child's, Formative, Showcase and Rider Classes, and any coaching, mentoring or handling arrangement connected with SHCV competition.

3. Legal Framework

SHCV operates in accordance with Victorian child safe standards and working with children legislation. Where a role involves regular contact with children — including judging, stewarding, coaching or handling — the person undertaking that role must hold a current Working with Children Check (or equivalent) as required by Victorian law, and must provide evidence of this to SHCV before undertaking the role.

4. Standards of Behaviour

- Adults must not be alone with a child who is not their own, in a closed or private space, without another adult present or reasonably able to observe.
- Communication with a child about SHCV matters should occur through, or copied to, a parent or guardian, and not through private or one-on-one channels.
- Physical contact with a child should be limited to what is necessary and appropriate to coaching, handling or safety (for example, assisting a child to mount, adjusting tack, or attending to a fall), and should be conducted openly.
- All language and conduct towards children must be respectful and encouraging; any conduct or language that intimidates, humiliates or excludes a child is not acceptable.
- The specific handler and supervision requirements for Leading Rein and First Ridden classes in Section 7.4 of the SHCV Competition Rules — including that the handler must be an adult of 18 years or over — form part of this Policy's child safety framework and must be complied with.
- Photography and video of children at SHCV events, and any use of such material on social media or in SHCV promotional material, must comply with the SHCV Social Media Policy and the SHCV Privacy Policy, including obtaining parental consent where required. Official photographer or Videographers will be required to agree to conditions of engagement as set out by SHCV

5. Screening of Officials and Volunteers

Before being appointed to a role involving regular contact with children, a person must provide SHCV with evidence of a current Working with Children Check (or equivalent), and may be asked to provide referee details. The SHCV Committee may decline to appoint, or may remove, a person from such a role where it holds a reasonable child safety concern, whether or not that concern has resulted in a formal finding against the person. A register of volunteers holding a WCC will be maintained by SHCV

6. Reporting a Concern

- Any person who holds a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child in connection with SHCV, or at any SHCV event, including a suspected breach of this Policy, grooming behaviour, or any form of abuse — must report it to the SHCV Committee as soon as possible.
- A report may be made by a child themselves, a parent or guardian, or any other person, and will be taken seriously regardless of who makes it.

- Where a report suggests a child may be at risk of harm, SHCV will treat the matter with confidentiality and respect as urgent and will make any mandatory report required by Victorian law to the relevant authority, in addition to dealing with the matter internally.
- A report under this Policy is dealt with under the SHCV Complaints, Protests and Disciplinary Procedure, but is prioritised and escalated ahead of other matters given the potential vulnerability of the child involved.

7. Confidentiality

Information about a child safety concern is shared only with those who need to know in order to keep the child safe, investigate the matter, or comply with a legal reporting obligation, in accordance with the SHCV Privacy Policy.

8. Training and Awareness

SHCV will take reasonable steps to ensure officials, coaches and volunteers in roles involving children are aware of and receive education on this Policy and understand how to recognise and report a child safety concern.

9. Review

This Policy is reviewed periodically by the SHCV Committee to ensure it remains consistent with current child safe standards and Victorian legislation.