

# Ice Hockey Queensland Inc Policy Document

## Child Protection

### Policy Objective

The purpose of this policy is to protect individuals under the age of 18 while participating in IHQ activities. IHQ recognizes that every child has a right to protection from harm. It is paramount to IHQ that we provide an environment that considers the personal welfare and best interests of children who participating in our activities.

### Policy

#### Blue Cards

All individuals (coaches, team personnel, volunteers, members, officials, and employees) over the age of 18 who have direct contact and/or responsibility for persons under the age of 18 will apply and obtain a valid Blue Card, issued by the Commission for Children, Young People, and Child Guardian, Queensland state government. This will be obtained prior to any involvement with persons under the age 18 at IHQ activities. Individuals will maintain this Blue Card as current and IHQ will review expiry dates annually.

IHQ members are bound by this policy and it requires that any anyone who suspects that a child is being abuse by someone involved within IHQ activities, to report it immediately to police or the Commission for Children, Young People, and Child Guardian and the President of IHQ.

#### Definitions of Abuse

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect

Under the Child Protection Act 1999 it does not matter how much a child is harmed, but whether; a child has suffered harm, is suffering harm, or is at risk of suffering harm and does not have a parent or carer that is willing to protect them from harm.

#### Physical Abuse

Physical abuse does not always leave marks or injuries. It is not how bad the mark or injury is, but rather the act itself that cause injury or trauma for the child or your person.

The following outlines behavior that has been defined as physical abuse:

- Hitting
- Shaking
- Throwing
- Burning
- Biting

#### Sexual Abuse

Intimate relationships between players and coaches (whether or not sexual) can have harmful effects on the individual player involved and on other players. Such relationships may be perceived as exploitative because of the position of authority that a coach holds over players. Coaches must take personal responsibility for discouraging such relationships and explaining the

ethical basis for such actions. The law is always standard of behavior and sex with a child is a criminal offence. The following outlines behavior has been defined as sexual abuse:

- kissing or holding a child in a sexual manner
- exposing a sexual body part to a child
- speaking to children about sexual matters
- making obscene phone calls or remarks to a child or young person
- sending obscene emails or text messages to a child or young person
- fondling a child or young person's body in a sexual way
- persistent intrusion of privacy
- penetration of the vagina, or anus by either the penis, finger, or any other object
- having sexual relations with a child under the age of 16 year of age
- oral sex
- rape
- incest
- showing pornographic films, magazines or photo's to a child
- exposing a child to a sexual act
- child prostitution

### **Emotional Abuse**

Emotional abuse occurs when a child's social, emotional, cognitive or intellectual development is impaired or threatened. It can include emotional deprivation due to persistent:

- rejection
- hostility
- teasing/bullying
- yelling
- criticism
- exposing a child to violence

### **Neglect**

Neglect occurs when a child's basic necessities of life are not met and their health and development are affected. Basic needs include:

- food
- housing
- health care
- personal hygiene
- hygienic living conditions
- adequate supervision

All individuals over the age 18 who require a Blue Card for their involvement with IHQ activities will read and sign a copy of this policy to indicate they are aware of and are bound by this policy.

<b>Authority</b>	Ice Hockey Queensland Inc Executive on 14 October 2008 <i>Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Qld)</i> <i>Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999 (Qld)</i>
<b>Application</b>	IHQ Inc and all of its affiliates
<b>Policy No. B26/2008</b>	<b>Review date</b> October 2011 <b>Effective from</b> 15 October 2008