NELSON EASTERN SU BURBS FOOTBALL CLUB

GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN

**Maintain appropriate boundaries**

Coaches and other personnel in positions of authority should maintain clear:

**Physical boundaries**

* Use drills to develop fitness, not as a punishment
* Only use physical contact that is appropriate for the development of a particular skill and has the permission of the athlete
* Work within sight of others at all times

**Emotional boundaries**

* Use positive feedback on performance, not negative feedback about the person
* Be encouraging and avoid put-downs

**Social boundaries**

* Attend sport related events such as sponsorship and fundraising events, celebrations and annual meetings but do not socialise with athletes outside sporting functions
* Do not socialise with athletes via social media

**Sexual boundaries**

* Do not have sexual relationships with athletes you are coaching
* Do not touch athletes in ways likely to make them feel uncomfortable

**Minimise physical contact**

Generally, physical contact with players or participants should be to:

* Develop sport skills
* Give sports massage
* Treat an injury
* Prevent or respond to an injury
* Meet the specific requirements of the sport

All physical contact by personnel should fulfil the following criteria:

* Physical contact should be appropriate for the development of a sport skill/s
* Permission from the player or participant should always be sought
* Players or participants should be congratulated or comforted in public not in an isolated setting

**Avoid being alone with a child**

To protect yourself and the child from risk:

* Do not isolate yourself and a child and avoid being alone with any particular child
* If a child approaches you and wants to talk to you privately about a matter, do so in an open area and in sight of other adults (e.g. other coaches, officials or parents/guardians)
* Before going into change rooms knock or announce that you will be coming in. Try to have at least one adult with you in a change room with children