

In the interests of promoting child safety within the sport of Football, the Board of Football NSW has implemented a policy which will expand the categories of individuals requiring the NSW Government's Working with Children Check (WWCC).

This Policy applies to all Football NSW affiliated Clubs, Associations, Branches, Centres, Referee Branches and all Officials, Coaches, Managers, Technical Directors, volunteers and participants.

The WWCC legislation currently provides exemptions from the requirement to obtain a WWC Number for certain categories of individuals, including:

1. Volunteer parents or close relatives coaching or managing their own child's or close relative's team;
2. Referees; and
3. Persons aged under 18 years of age.

While recognising that the WWCC is only part of an organisation's tools for promoting a child safe environment, the Board of Football NSW was concerned that these exemptions, particularly the first two, meant that a significant and important portion of the membership was not being subjected to the WWCC.

Accordingly, under this Policy, the following require a WWC Number:

1. Volunteer parents or close relatives coaching or managing their own child's or close relative's team; and
2. Referees.

Persons aged under 18 years of age, even if they fall within the above categories, remain exempt.

Coaches and Managers

Under this Policy, all paid persons and all volunteer Coaches, Managers, Technical Directors and other roles which involve working or volunteering with children under 18 years of age will now require a WWCC (unless exempt). For the avoidance of doubt, this requirement extends to volunteer parents or close relatives coaching or managing their own child's or close relative's team.

The exemptions recognised by Football NSW are:

- Persons under 18 years of age;
- Grounds persons;
- Guest presenters or speakers for a one-off presentation;
- Persons who work or volunteer with children visiting NSW from another State to attend an event where the work in NSW will be for no more than 30 days in a calendar year.

Therefore, it is a requirement of Football NSW that all

Technical Directors, Coaches and Managers working or volunteering with children under 18 years of age obtain a WWCC and provide their Club, Association, Branch, Centre and/or Football NSW with a valid WWC Number.

Referees

Under this Policy, all referees require a WWCC, unless exempt.

The only exemption for referees recognised by Football NSW is the exemption for persons aged under 18 years.

Therefore, it is a requirement of Football NSW that all referees obtain a WWCC and provide their Referee Branch and/or Football NSW (as the case may be) with a valid WWC Number.

Registering in Play Football – Information for Administrators and Participants

When registering in Play Football (PF) as a Coach, Manager, Technical Director or any other role that involves working or volunteering with a child under 18 years of age, it is now a pre-condition of registration with Football NSW that the individual obtains a WWC Number and enters their WWC number in the PF registration system at the time of registration. Persons under 18 years of age are exempt from this registration requirement.

Where a person's role requires a WWCC:

1. For all persons, including referees, registration is not to be approved in the PF registration system by the relevant administrator and will not be effective until the individual has entered their WWC Number during the registration process and their Club, Association, Branch, Centre, Referee Branch and/or Football NSW (as the case may be) has verified the WWC Number via the on-line WWC verification system at www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au.
2. It is the responsibility of the relevant Club, Association, Branch, Centre, Referee Branch and/or Football NSW (as the case may be) to obtain the person's WWC Number either from PF or directly from the individual and then verify the WWC Number via the on-line WWCC verification system at www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au and retain a record of the verification details in accordance with the requirements of the WWCC legislation.

For more information visit www.footballnsw.com.au or contact your club or association.

Working with Children Check Compliance

The NSW Office of the Children's Guardian (**OCG**) is the State Government Agency responsible for managing the WWCC in NSW. Football NSW will continue to work closely with the OCG in relation to child protection and our members' compliance with the WWCC.

The OCG has already conducted a significant number of audits of Football NSW Clubs and Associations and will continue to do so.

While Football NSW acknowledges that this Policy will require changes to the processes in your organisation, we also recognise that many clubs are already applying the WWCC as outlined in this Policy. We note further that these changes may in fact make the process easier in some respects as clubs will no longer need to undertake the arduous task of determining which coaches and managers are exempt and which are not.

For more information visit www.footballnsw.com.au or contact your club or association.