



ASC RESTORATIVE PROGRAM

Child and athlete safeguarding at the ASC and AIS

Current state

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) is committed to leading child safe practices for our sites and operations.

We are dedicated to ensuring Australian sport environments are safe, respectful and supportive. To do this we are implementing the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, supporting athletes through wellbeing initiatives for capable sporting organisations, providing direct athlete servicing and are a participating institution in the National Redress Scheme.

The ASC Child Safe Policy outlines our approach to child safeguarding. With an ASC Child Safe Champion, a dedicated Safeguarding and Integrity team, a Child and Athlete Safety Committee and an AIS Athlete Advisory Group, the ASC is active in implementing the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations to oversee site operations and ensure safety is considered in all business areas.

In delivering our commitment to child safeguarding:

- > the ASC works with Sport Integrity Australia and National Sporting Organisations to adopt and implement child safeguarding policies and practices
- > the ASC Safeguarding and Integrity Team coordinates child safe training for all ASC staff including, Child Safe Officers and Work Health Safety team, and Safer Recruitment training for hiring managers and team leaders. Child facing staff receive Responding and Reporting for Child Safety training and all staff complete an annual eLearning module
- > the AIS incorporates activities contributing to the well-being of athletes e.g. Athlete campus experience and site review with a focus on high performance operations
- > the AIS has employed 26 Athlete and Wellbeing Engagement Managers who are embedded in NSOs and who are supported by a dedicated team of staff at the AIS
- > we assess each NSO on key wellbeing metrics biannually via the AIS Wellbeing Health check of high performance funded sporting organisations.

The launch of the ASC Restorative Program in July 2022 is the latest step in the ASC's safeguarding journey and will not be the last. Learnings and key insights from the Program will from this will play a critical role in informing the practices of the sports sector in the future.

How did we get here?

The ASC has a long history of child safeguarding with the introduction of member protection policies (MPP) from 2001. This is still a requirement that, all recognised and funded sporting organisations to have a MPP that references child protection.

Over the past 10 years, even more focus has been put towards the research, development, education and implementation of safeguarding policies and processes.



Timeline

Milestones delivered by the ASC:

2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Our Sporting Future conference key theme 'Creating Child Safe Environments'
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> established National Child Safe Sport Project> engaged the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) to review the current state of child safe environments in Australian sport
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> received and released 'Safeguarding Children in Sport' Blueprint report from ACF> National Safeguarding in Children in Sport Strategy Working Group established
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> conducted Child Safe Benchmarking review on 43 NSOs> Child Safe Policy introduced> Child Safe Committee established
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Child Safe Toolkit for NSOs released> Board Child Safe Commitment Statement
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> delivered training sessions on the Child Safe Sport Toolkit for NSOs> Child Safe Review for AIS Site> Child Safety Action Plan (2018–2022)> Athlete Safety and Protection Advisory Group established> Responding to Sexual Misconduct (RSM) Policy and helpline established> joined National Redress Scheme> contacted NSOs and AIS Alumni to inform of RSM Policy, helpline and Redress> established Athlete and Wellbeing Engagement network
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> AIS Mental Health Referral Network established> Child and Athlete Safety Committee established combining the Child Safe and Athlete Safety and Protection Advisory Group> Child Safety Action Plan (2018–2022)> supported the Government taskforce for the establishment of Sport Integrity Australia> AIS High Performance Sports System Wellbeing Review> conducted second Child Safe Benchmarking review on 50 NSOs> compliance to Commonwealth Child Safe Framework
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Sport Integrity Australia established, and ASC retains enterprise integrity responsibilities including child safeguarding for ASC operations and sites> Child Safety Action Plan (2018–2022)> Child Safe Policy major update> ASC Child Safe Officers introduced
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Child Safety Action Plan (2018–2022)> Mandatory online child safety training for all staff> launch of the AIS Wellbeing Health Check assessment> updated funding and service agreements to comply with Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (child safe clauses enhanced) and the Grant Connected Policy for the National Redress Scheme> AIS Be Heard established> ASC Apology to former AIS athletes
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Child Safety Review Site Operations conducted by Childwise> Restorative Program established> ASC Child Safeguarding Action Plan (2022–2025)