



QUEENSLAND GIRLS
Secondary Schools
Sports Association

Statement of Commitment to Children's Safety & Wellbeing

23 March 2026

Queensland Girls Secondary Schools Sports Association Inc
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Established 1908 - Performance, Participation, Tradition & Innovation

QGSSSA Statement of Commitment to Children's Safety & Wellbeing

This Statement of Commitment reflects the obligations of the Queensland Girls' Secondary Schools Sports Association (QGSSSA) in accordance with the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Qld)* and the *Child Safe Organisations Act 2024* and demonstrates our commitment to creating and maintaining environments that prioritise the safety, wellbeing and empowerment of children and young people.

QGSSSA is committed to implementing the Queensland Child Safe Standards and the Universal Principle for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Safety, embedding these principles across our governance, policies, programs and sporting environments.

The QGSSSA is committed to the safety, wellbeing and empowerment of every child and young person who participates in QGSSSA activities and events.

We recognise that sport should always be a safe, positive and inclusive environment where girls and young people can thrive. QGSSSA has zero tolerance for child abuse, harm, grooming or neglect in any form and is dedicated to creating and maintaining child safe environments across all programs, competitions and events.

1.0 Our Commitment

QGSSSA commits to:

Prioritising student safety and wellbeing

We place the safety and wellbeing of students at the centre of our leadership, governance and operational decision-making.

Creating safe sporting environments

We work proactively with member schools, staff, volunteers, officials and partners to identify and reduce risks and to ensure safe physical and online environments at all times, as far as is reasonably practicable.

Listening to and empowering students

We value student voices and encourage students to speak up about concerns. We are committed to ensuring students feel heard, respected and supported, and that their rights are understood and upheld.

Supporting inclusion and respect

We foster environments that are inclusive, culturally safe and welcoming for all students, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and those from diverse backgrounds and abilities.

Education and upholding clear expectations of behaviour

We will educate everyone involved in QGSSSA about what it means to be a child safe organisation, so that we can prevent, detect and effectively respond to child abuse.

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All staff, volunteers, officials and partners involved in QGSSSA activities are expected to demonstrate child safe behaviours and comply with the QGSSSA Code of Conduct and child safe policies.

Taking all reasonable steps to protect children and young people from exposure to harm

We take proactive measures to protect children and young people from harm in all QGSSSA environments, including competitions, events and associated activities.

Empowering students to participate in decisions that affect them

We recognise students' right to participate in decisions that impact them and encourage their involvement in shaping safe and positive sporting environments.

Educating students about their rights and where to seek support

We ensure students understand their rights and know who they can approach if they feel unsafe or have concerns.

Providing clear guidance for responding to concerns

We instruct our community, including staff, volunteers and officials, on how to respond appropriately to complaints, concerns and breaches of conduct expectations.

Maintaining effective processes for responding to concerns of harm

We maintain clear, transparent and child-focused processes for responding to concerns, disclosures and complaints in accordance with legislative requirements.

Listening, learning and seeking continuous improvement

We are committed to regularly reviewing and strengthening our practices to ensure continuous improvement in child safety and wellbeing.

2.0 Child Safe Standards and the Universal Principle

QGSSSA is committed to implementing the Queensland Child Safe Standards and the Universal Principle for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Safety, as outlined by the Queensland Family and Child Commission.

Universal Principle

QGSSSA acknowledges the importance of ensuring culturally safe environments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

We recognise the strengths, resilience and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and are committed to:

- respecting and valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures
- promoting environments where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students feel safe, respected and empowered

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- working with member schools to ensure sporting environments are culturally inclusive and supportive
- recognising the ongoing connection Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to culture, community and Country.

Queensland Child Safe Standards

QGSSSA aligns its policies, practices and decision-making with the 10 Child Safe Standards, which guide organisations to create and maintain environments that prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

Standard 1 – Leadership, governance and culture

Child safety and wellbeing are embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.

Standard 2 – Child participation and empowerment

Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

Standard 3 – Family and community involvement

Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

Standard 4 – Equity and inclusion

Equity is upheld and diverse needs are respected in policy and practice.

Standard 5 – Suitability of staff and volunteers

People working with children are suitable and supported to reflect child safe values.

Standard 6 – Child-focused complaints processes

Processes for complaints and concerns are accessible, child-focused and responsive.

Standard 7 – Staff and volunteer knowledge

Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe.

Standard 8 – Safe physical and online environments

Physical and online environments promote safety and minimise opportunities for harm.

Standard 9 – Continuous improvement

Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.

Standard 10 – Policies and procedures

Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

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Through these standards, QGSSSA works collaboratively with its member schools to ensure all sporting environments, competitions and activities are safe, respectful and supportive for every student.

3.0 Shared Responsibility

Keeping students safe is everyone’s responsibility.

QGSSSA expects all adults involved in our programs — including staff, volunteers, officials, partners and member schools — to actively contribute to a culture that protects and respects children and young people.

This Statement of Commitment is publicly available and embedded across QGSSSA operations, communications and event environments.

VERSION CONTROL TABLE			
VERSION CONTROL	DATE EFFECTIVE	APPROVED BY	AMMENDMENT
1	23.03.2026	Executive	Initial policy document

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