

# CHILD SAFE E-NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026



## Welcome to the April 2026 SLSNSW Child Safe e-Newsletter

Thank you for all your support for children and young people and all members throughout this season.

In this edition:

- ✓ End of season celebrations – Child Safe tips
- ✓ Child Safe Awareness course (18+) for patrol members
- ✓ Overnight trips – Accommodation and Medication Management
- ✓ IRB Carnivals – Child Safe resource if your team includes U18s
- ✓ 'Hear me Play – Youth Perceptions in Sport' – Sport Integrity survey of young people and safety in sport
- ✓ Child Safe training and resources

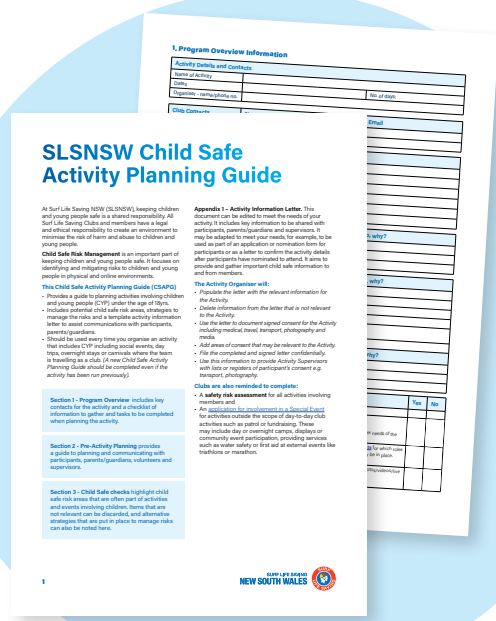


## End of season celebrations – Child Safe tips

As you celebrate the achievements of your members and club this season, here are some tips to support child safety and help all members celebrate safely.

- Use the [SLSNSW Child Safe Activity Planning Guide](#) to plan events that include children and young people
- **Carparks, bathroom/changerooms** – are they well-lit and is supervision available, as needed?
- **Include signage** – for 'out of bounds', concealed or non-supervised areas and designated alcohol or smoking areas
- **Alcohol** – make your child focused events (such as the end of nippers break up) an alcohol-free event
- **Clear communication regarding supervision** – confirm what supervision will be provided by the club and what supervision will be required by families/guardians
- **SLSA Code of Conduct** – must be followed by all members at all club activities and events. Remind all leaders and adult members they set the standard of behaviour to show children what feeling safe and respected means
- **Educate and empower children and young people** – inform them about the event and how to let someone know if they feel unsafe
- **MPIO contacts** – shared on your website and in information about the event you are planning.

**STANDARD 3**  
*Families and communities are informed and involved. Organisations actively engage with families and communities to support children.*





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# Child Safe Awareness course (18+) for patrol members is a national requirement in 2026/27 season

Thank you for your continued support for members to complete the Child Safe Awareness course. **Over 700 members have completed or renewed their Child Safe Awareness course this season.**

The end of the season may be a good time to remind all patrol members over 18 years to complete or renew their Child Safe Awareness course in the off season. **This course will become a national requirement in the 2026/27 season.**

Members under 18 years are encouraged to complete the **Child Safe Awareness (13-17 years) course**, although this is not mandatory.

Clubs can support members to complete the Child Safe Awareness course by offering links to the [SLS Hub](#) via your newsletter or website with a reminder to complete this e-learning course. Members select the **Safety and Wellbeing Section** and select the **SLS - Child Safe Awareness course (18+)** or the **Child Safe Awareness (13-17 years) course**.

**CHILD SAFE STANDARD 7**

*Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training*

**CHILD SAFE STANDARD 10**

*Policies and procedures document how the organisation is child safe.*

*..child safe policies and procedures are available in child-friendly and accessible formats that pay attention to children's diverse characteristics, cultural background and abilities*



SLS - Child Safe Awareness (18 years +) ▼  
Surf Life Saving



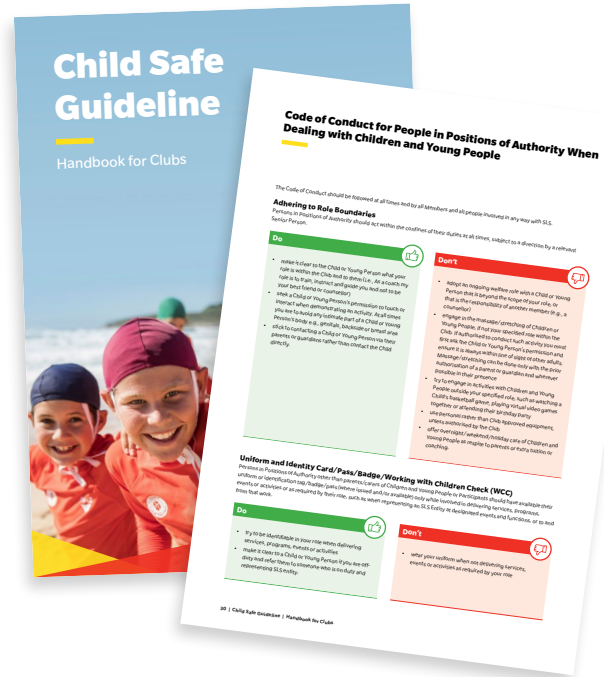
SLS - Child Safe Awareness (13-17 years) ▼  
Surf Life Saving




# Overnight trips – Child Safe accommodation and medication management

Use the [SLSNSW Child Safe Activity Planning Guide \(CSAPG\)](#) and to identify and manage child safe risks for day and overnight events including;


- **Room allocation to meet individual needs** – e.g. only members of a similar age and of the same gender to share a room
- **Encourage input by members** – check members are comfortable with the accommodation arrangements
- **Adults DO NOT share rooms with CYP** – unless they are sharing ONLY with their child/ren
- **Written consent** from the CYP's parent/guardian is required if they wish an 18+ member to share the room with their child e.g. a club competition team who are a mix of 17-, 18- and 19-year-olds
- **Privacy for bathing and dressing** – separate facilities and/or cubicles for change rooms where possible. If not possible, implement alternatives such as a roster of access for different genders, adults and CYP at different times
- **Appropriate dress standards** e.g. no exposure to adult nudity
- **No exposure to pornographic material**, for example, through movies, television, the internet or magazines
- **Supervision** – do not leave CYP under the supervision of unauthorised persons e.g. hotel staff or friends
- **Mobile phones and contacts** – CYP have the right to independently contact their parents, or others, if they feel unsafe, uncomfortable or distressed during the stay.



**STANDARD 8**  
Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur.

**Do**


- make sure there are appropriate levels of supervision. General rule is a minimum of two adults with a ratio of 1:8
- plan appropriate accommodation. If Children share a room they should be the same age and sex
- plan for emergencies. If you need to administer first aid, do so only if you are qualified and in the presence of others
- keep parents informed and let them know: aim of the trip; destinations and venues; competition details; supervision levels; roles and responsibilities of accompanying adults and the estimated time of arrival and departure
- keep Children informed and let them know: what's expected of them; roles and responsibilities of adults accompanying them; their rights and who to talk to if they have any concerns.

**Don't**


- share rooms with Children. If an adult presence is required, there should always be more than one Child in the room with the adult
- be alone in a room with a Child
- remove a Child's clothing, even in an emergency, unless you have their permission and at least one other person is with you.



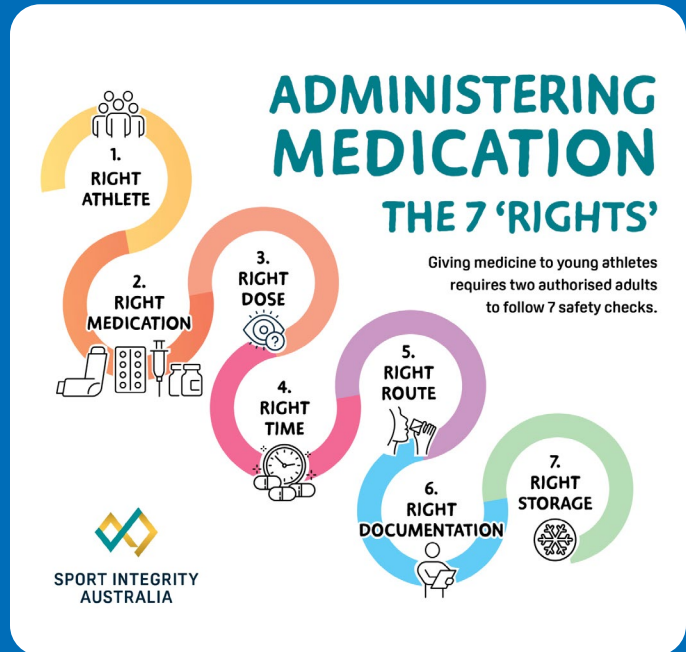
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# Medication Management

Tips to help keep children safe include;

- **Individual medication and support needs**
  - gather information about each CYP members' medication, administration, storage, emergency response plans and support needs when travelling. This can be done via the EOI/ application form (**CSAPG - Appendix 1**)
- **Administering medication** – confirm if CYP members are independent with their medication administration and discuss what supports can and cannot be provided by the club supervisors
- **Storage** – confirm the medication storage requirements – e.g. in a fridge, secured for safety of other members
- **Emergency response plan** – inform all club supervisors about the medication needs of the CYP members and emergency response requirements.

More child safe travel and medication resources can be found on the [Sport Integrity Australia](#) and [Play by the Rules](#) websites.



## IRB Carnivals

**Is your club planning to attend IRB carnivals in the off season? Does your IRB team include members under 18 years?**

Remember to consider the child safe risks, particularly if you have U18s in your team. Often teams travel and stay together, and ensuring the safety of U18s in your team (who may not be travelling with family/guardians) needs to remain a priority – especially after hours or during dinner events where alcohol is served.

The [SLSNSW Child Safe Activity Planning Guide](#) can assist you to consider child safe risks and strategies to manage these. The Information letter for participants, parents/guardians (Appendix 1) is a template that may assist you to communicate important details about the activity with participants and parents/carers. e.g. travel arrangements, supervision expectations etc.

Please contact us at [memberservices@surflifesaving.com.au](mailto:memberservices@surflifesaving.com.au) if you have any questions or concerns.



## “Hear me Play – Youth perceptions of safety in sport”

Sport Integrity Australia have begun a 5-year study with children and young people to ‘hear their voice’ about their experiences in sport and what keeps them safe.

Key insights from the first survey of over 1000 children and young people aged 12 – 18 years include;

- 93% of young people love, or like their sport a lot
- 93% feel safe in sport always, or most of the time
- 91% have fun always, or most of the time.

The study identified;

- Friendship, fitness and fun were prioritised by children over winning or losing
- 33% stated reduced enjoyment was their main reason for leaving sport.
- 27% had witnessed peer bullying in sport. This is consistent with rates seen in other environments such as education and online.
- 92% would report inappropriate behaviour to someone they trust, such as a parent or coach.
- Frequent exposure to negative experiences increases the likelihood that young people will accept the negative behaviour as ‘normal’.
- Parents and carers are pivotal in protecting and ‘shaping positive experiences’ for children in sport.
- Children with ‘Praise Parents’, who encourage children in sport, are more likely to ‘feel safe, have fun, love their sport and be motivated to participate’



Following the research Sport Integrity Australia will develop child safe resources including;

- ‘Child-friendly policy documents to support young people to better identify poor behaviour in sport’
- An online safeguarding course designed specifically for young athletes
- ‘Practical tools and resources to support sports to manage peer-on-peer issues effectively’
- ‘Initiatives to better educate players and parents, improve engagement with junior match officials, and understand the impact of poor sideline behaviour’

## Training and Resources

### **Sport Integrity Australia – Resources for Parents / Carers and families**

- [Parents and families | Sport Integrity Australia](#)
- [Safeguarding for Parents and Carers | Sport Integrity Australia](#)

### **Office of the Children’s Guardian**

- [Resources | Office of the Children's Guardian](#)

### **eSafety Commissioner**

- The [eSafety Commissioner Sports Hub](#) includes online safety advice and resources to help everyone in sport to have more positive experiences online.

## Support

Thank you again for all your help with promoting child safe practices in Surf Life Saving.

Please contact us at [memberservices@surflifesaving.com.au](mailto:memberservices@surflifesaving.com.au). We are happy to answer questions and follow up resources as you continue to implement the Child Safe Standards.