



RoboCup Junior (Australia) Inc.
Suite 1100
45 Glenferrie Road
Malvern VIC 3144
ABN: 72 592 462 493
Incorporation Number: A0040826L

Key Details

Policy Name:	Child Safety Policy (VIC)
Version:	Version 4
Release Date:	July 2024
Review Date:	July 2026 (and following significant incidents if they occur)
Applicability:	Victorian events only
Responsible Role:	Victorian State Chair

Preface

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.

RoboCup Junior Victoria (also referred to as ‘Our organisation’, ‘our organisation’, ‘our’, ‘us’ or ‘we’) is the Victorian arm of national non-profit organisation RoboCup Junior (Australia) Inc. At time of writing, RoboCup Junior Victoria and its parent are fully run by volunteers.

Our organisation’s personnel primarily run robotics related events for primary and secondary school students. All students attend these events under the supervision of their registering mentor (or the registering mentors delegate). Our organisation does not provide supervisory services for students.

Commitment to child safety

Our organisation is committed to child safety, and we want children engaged in our activities to be safe and happy. To achieve this, we support and respect all children and our personnel.

We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all genuine allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously, as outlined in this policy.

We have legal and moral obligations to contact relevant parties, such as a child’s registering mentor (or otherwise authorities) when we are worried about a child’s safety.

Our organisation is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early and to removing and reducing these risks.

Our organisation has processes in place to ensure all personal who are required to hold Working with Children Checks hold these (or are except from holding these). Please see www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au for further information.

We are committed to inclusivity of all children, and our organisation implements initiatives to support diversity where possible.



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Our personnel

This policy guides our personnel and on how to behave when having contact with children at our events.

Our personnel must abide by our code of conduct which specifies the standards of conduct required when having contact with children at our events. This code of conduct is readily available on our website.

Most of our personnel are transient event volunteers. These volunteers work under the supervision of our volunteer committee. Event volunteers or other personnel undertaking duties intended to have contact with children are required to meet the previously mentioned Working with Children Check requirements.

Fair procedures for personnel

We are fair and just to personnel. Any decisions we make will always be thorough, transparent, and based on evidence.

Legislative responsibilities of personnel and our organisation

Our organisation takes our legal responsibilities seriously, including:

Failure to disclose: Reporting child sexual abuse is a community-wide responsibility. All adults in Victoria who have a reasonable belief that an adult has committed a sexual offence against a child under 16 have an obligation to report that information to the police.¹

Failure to protect: People of authority in our organisation will commit an offence if they know of a substantial risk of child sexual abuse and have the power or responsibility to reduce or remove the risk, but negligently fail to do so.²

Any personnel who are mandatory reporters must comply with their duties.³

Risk management

In Victoria, organisations are required to protect children when a risk is identified (see previously mentioned information about failure to protect above).

We have risk management strategies in place to identify, assess, and take steps to minimise child abuse risks, which include risks posed by physical environments (for

¹ A person will not commit this offence if they have a reasonable excuse for not disclosing the information, including a fear for their safety or where the information has already been disclosed. Further information about the failure to disclose offence is available at <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/safer-communities/protecting-children-and-families/failure-to-disclose-offence>.

² Further information about the failure to protect offence is available on the <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/safer-communities/protecting-children-and-families/failure-to-protect-a-newcriminal-offence-to>.

³ Mandatory reporters (doctors, nurses, midwives, teachers (including early childhood teachers), principals and police) must report to child protection if they believe on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection from physical injury or sexual abuse.



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example, by ensuring all event activities are conducted in open spaces) and risks posed by online environments (though elimination (or where not possible, minimisation) of student/personnel online interaction).

Allegations, concerns and complaints

We all have a responsibility to report an allegation of abuse⁴ if we have a reasonable belief that an incident took place (see previously mentioned information about failure to disclose above).

We record all allegations of abuse and safety concerns on our incident reporting form, including investigation updates. All records are securely stored. If an allegation of abuse or a safety concern is raised, we provide updates to the registering mentor (or other appropriate party) on progress and any actions we as an organisation take.

If our personnel have a reasonable belief that an incident has occurred then they must report the incident.

Factors contributing to reasonable belief may be:

- a child states they or someone they know has been abused (noting that sometimes the child may in fact be referring to themselves)
- behaviour consistent with that of an abuse victim is observed⁵
- someone else has raised a suspicion of abuse but is unwilling to report it
- observing suspicious behaviour.

Privacy

All personal information considered or recorded will respect the privacy of the individuals involved, whether they be staff, volunteers, parents or children, unless there is a risk to someone's safety. We have safeguards and practices in place to ensure any personal information is protected. Everyone is entitled to know how this information is recorded, what will be done with it, and who will have access to it.

⁴ See the Department of Health and Human Services website for information about how to make a report to child protection at <https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse>.

⁵ For example behaviour, please see An Overview of the Victorian child safe standards at <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/new-child-safe-standards-now-apply>.