



Geelong Baseball Association

Working With Children Policy
2023

Working With Children Check

The Working with Children Check (WWCC) is a mandatory background check of people who work or volunteer in child-related work. It applies to people who have regular direct contact with children where that contact is not directly supervised.

The WWCC is designed to help keep children safe. People who work or volunteer in connection with certain services, bodies places or activities are required to apply for a WWCC.

These guidelines have been developed to a minimum standard for clubs and the Association to adopt to ensure that the sport of baseball is doing everything possible to prevent child-related offences and is compliant under the Working with Children Act 2005 (the Act).

It is a criminal offence for a person to start or continue “child-related work” in the sport of baseball without a WWCC after 30 June 2010.

It is also a criminal act for an organisation to engage a person in “child-related work” in the sport of baseball without a WWCC after 30 June 2010.

Under the Act, a person is considered to be engaged in child-related work and must apply for a WWCC if they:

- Work or volunteer in a role that brings them into contact with children under the age of 18; and
- Volunteer or do this work on a regular basis; and
- Have direct contact with children under the age of 18 which is not directly supervised; and
- Do not qualify for one of the exemptions in the legislation.

The GBA Board endorses the following exemptions from the legislation, and it will recognise that clubs shall not require the following individuals to apply for the WWCC (subject to appropriate proof being sighted and recorded)

1. Persons under the age of 18.
2. Sworn members of the police force (not under suspension).
3. Teachers registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT).

Each club must keep an updated record of all persons at their club with WWCCs. This record is to include the WWCC number and expiry date. It is also a requirement that all exempted persons' details be recorded by the club.

Under the legislation, parents don't have to apply for a WWCC if their child is involved in the relevant activity. However, the GBA Board and the state's governing body Baseball Victoria does not endorse this exemption and it requires that all parents that meet the criteria set out above apply for and obtain a WWCC.

It is expected that all clubs with junior teams will have the following people obtain a WWCC:

- Junior Co-ordinator.
- Junior team coaches.
- Senior team coaches where juniors are playing in senior teams.

- Senior players who are in regular contact with children. For example, senior players that assist at training sessions that involve juniors.
- All Committee Members.
- Canteen Staff.
- Scorers.

A person can start or continue “child related work” once they have lodged a WWCC application. The application receipt is sufficient proof that an application has been made. The receipt must be recorded by the club.

Working with Children Check Negative Notice

Before the Department of Justice makes a final decision to refuse a WWCC application the applicant will be given an opportunity to make a submission to the Department of Justice.

If an applicant does not pass the WWCC after the submission has been considered and receives a negative notice that person cannot perform child related work. It is extremely important that clubs maintain confidentiality and discretion when approaching this situation.

Applying for a WWCC

The Department of Justice website contains all the details of how to apply for a WWCC.

WWCCs now can be applied for online by the Department of Justice website.
www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

There is also an information line on 1300 652 879 (8.30am to 5pm weekdays (excluding public holidays)).