

## Working with Children Checks

### This information should be circulated within the Association and Clubs



NSW Basketball Association Ltd

The New South Wales Government has legislated that persons who work with children must undergo checks on their criminal records. Persons who have a conviction for a relevant criminal offence (sex, drug and violent offences) will be prohibited from working with children.

The Working with Children Act creates offences carrying very high penalties for non-compliance and those offences apply not just to the persons working with the children but to their supervisors, organisations employing them and Committee/Board members of organisation in which the people work with children.

In representative basketball, the Working with Children Checks will replace police checks.

The Act does have some exemptions. Police and teachers (who have separate checks) do not have to get a Working with Children Check. However, they should give you some proof that they are police or teachers. These exemptions will be recognised by Basketball NSW.

The Act also exempts parents where their children are playing in the team in which the parent is involved as a coach etc. Also exempt are adults where all children in a team are closely related to the person. However, Basketball NSW will not recognise these exemptions and will require those parents or close relatives to have Working with Children Checks. This is in line with most sports and this sort of measure has the support of the Working with Children Office.

The Working with Children Check will last for 5 years. Each organization is required to verify on line the Working with Children Check numbers, and these need to be re-entered for verification on a regular basis.

The Act requires all persons working with children to have the check if they have or are likely to have individual and unsupervised contact with children.

This should also include coaches, team managers and drivers and should also include referees and referee coaches. Associations and clubs are urged to err on the side of caution in deciding who should be screened.



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All Committee/Board members are also required to be screened, whether or not they have individual and unsupervised contact with children. Persons under 18 are not required to be screened.

Applying for Working with Children Checks is relatively easy and free for volunteers. Individuals must fill in the application form online and they will need to attend an RMS (Roads and Maritime Services) or Service NSW Office personally to lodge the check. They will then be sent a Working with Children Check number for the employer/association to verify. Each Association needs to ensure a record is kept of all verified Working with Children Checks.

Further information can be obtained from:

<https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/>

If you have any queries please contact us and we will endeavor to assist.

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