



GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN

These guidelines are for staff, coaches and other personnel to protect them from risk and to keep children safe. They integrate with BBI's Child Protection Policy, Child Protection Risk Management Strategy, Team Travel and Accommodation Policy, Basketball Queensland's Codes of Behaviour and Member Protection Policy, Basketball Australia's Preventative Advice to All Coaches, Legal Responsibilities of the Coach and Coach/Manager Code of Ethics documents.

MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE BOUNDARIES

Coaches, Team Managers, and other personnel in positions of authority should maintain clear:

- **Physical boundaries**
 - Use activities, drills, and break-downs, to develop skills and fitness, not as a punishment
 - Only use physical contact that is appropriate for the development of a particular skill and has the permission of the athlete (permission is not assumed)
 - Work within sight of others at all times (may require requesting parents to stay and observe practice)
- **Emotional boundaries**
 - Treat each player or athlete as an individual, being careful to be fair, honest and considerate
 - Use positive feedback on performance, not negative feedback about the person
 - Be encouraging and avoid put-downs
- **Social boundaries**
 - Attend sport related events such as sponsorship and fundraising events, celebrations and annual meetings but do not socialise with athletes outside sporting functions
 - Do not communicate or socialise with athletes via social media
 - Alcohol is not consumed at junior events for duration of that event irrespective of proximity to children
- **Sexual boundaries**
 - Do not have sexual relationships with athletes you are coaching
 - Do not touch athletes in ways likely to make them feel uncomfortable
- **Minimise physical contact**
 - Generally, physical contact with players or participants should be to:
 - Develop athletic and basketball skills
 - Give sports massage (if trained and approved only)
 - Treat an injury (if trained and approved)
 - Prevent or respond to an injury
 - Meet the specific requirements of the basketball



- **Minimise physical contact (Continued)...**
 - All physical contact by personnel should fulfil the following criteria:
 - Physical contact should be appropriate for the development of an athletic or basketball skill
 - Permission from the player or participant should always be sought (this should also be addressed at the parent induction meeting, and on an ongoing basis as skills improve)
 - Players or participants should be congratulated or comforted in public not in an isolated setting (do not assume contact in these situations are automatically accepted, discuss with players and parents at induction)

- **Avoid being alone with a child**
 - To protect yourself and the child from risk:
 - Do not isolate yourself and a child and avoid being alone with any particular child
 - If a child approaches you and wants to talk to you privately about a matter, do so in an open area and in sight of other adults (e.g. other coaches, officials or parents/guardians)
 - Before going into change rooms knock or announce that you will be coming in. Have your Team Manager present, or at least one adult with you in a change room with children