

CHILD SAFETY INITIATIVES – ANZ 2021

I. Child safety initiatives for Club team manager & other team support roles, club coaching & officials

Club team managers and other team support roles:

The recommendation is that club team managers and other team support roles must be vetted via Community Volunteer Membership, Community Coach Membership or Accredited Coach Membership. This will align the requirements of club teams to match those introduced to centre teams in 2020. This will include any specified team managers and other roles including coordinating team travel and supervising overnight accommodation. This requirement will not include parents who assist on an informal basis.

Athletics NZ will communicate this recommendation to clubs during May and ongoing with the objective of having a significant and increasing level of uptake through the 2021/22 athletics season.

Club coaching:

The recommendation is that coaches for *official club coaching sessions* must hold a current Community Coach Membership or Accredited Coach Membership.

Proposed definition of Club Coaching: An *official club coaching session* which is run by a coach(es) approved by the club, to coach its club members. It also includes coaching of non-club members where this has been arranged by, or on behalf of, the club. This requirement will not include parent helpers and young athletes who may assist with a coaching session. As an interim measure, if the coach has not yet been police vetted, then the session can be overseen by an Accredited Coach Member, Community Coach Member or Community Volunteer Member.

Athletics NZ will communicate this recommendation to clubs during May and ongoing with the objective of having a significant and increasing level of uptake for the 2021/22 track & field season.

Officials:

The recommendation is to develop and implement a membership scheme for officials that includes police vetting. Athletics NZ will work alongside Centres to provide clarity on why officials need to be vetted (e.g. potential grooming children/young people creating risk out of local track environment). Based on feedback received from the Officials Advisory Group and Centres, Athletics NZ will implement this new membership scheme, using a staged approach, over the next 1-2 years. This will include police vetting and child safety as a module for new officials. Officials will be vetted on a reasonable timeline, with priority for national events. This requirement will not include parent volunteers.

Athletics NZ will signal this recommendation to clubs during May with the objective of keeping clubs informed of plans as they develop.

II. Roles of Athletics NZ, Centres and Clubs in implementing child safety initiatives

Athletics NZ's Role:

- Provide clear and consistent communications on why child safety and police vetting are important.
- Chief Executive and Community Manager to be available to meet with Centres and clubs to discuss why this is important.
- Ensure reasonable implementation timelines for mandatory police vetting.
- Be clear on who is not included to reduce resistance.
- Expect some resistance, particularly from “old-guard”, but make progress and others will get on board.
- Improve the communications and website registration process. Communications need to be easy to find and easy to understand.
 - Investigate the use of a variety of communication techniques, including video, infographics and others.
 - “Package” forms and documents to enable centres and clubs to complete processes in person with those looking to take up an Athletics NZ Coach, Volunteer or Officials Membership.
 - Ensure information is easy to find, and internal Athletics NZ processes are as user friendly as possible.

Centres Role:

- Ensure that Centre team managers (and other team support roles) have an appropriate Athletics NZ membership, that includes Police Vetting.
- Centres to ensure clarity for police vetting ID verifiers in their region.
- Facilitate group meetings with clubs (in person and/or on-line) starting in June/July to get them on board. Invite Athletics NZ Chief Executive or Community Manager to attend in person or join on-line.
- Where appropriate, deliver child safety education in Centre environments and encourage delivery within club environments.

Clubs Role:

- Encourage club team managers (and other team support roles) to apply for an appropriate Athletics NZ membership (Community Volunteer Membership, Community Coach Membership or Accredited Coach membership), that includes Police Vetting.
- Encourage coaches leading official club coaching sessions to apply for Accredited Coach Membership or Community Coach Membership.
- Club leaders commit to participating in Athletics NZ and/or Centre child safety education opportunities.
- Promote child safety education and good practice in their club.