

Responding to Incidents, Disclosures, and Suspicions of Child Abuse

In compliance with the requirements of Paddle Queensland, the following diagram, summarising the process for responding to incidents, disclosures and suspicions of Child abuse, and must be followed.

Child Abuse Incident Report Form must be used for reporting to Paddle Queensland, and can be found at <https://qld.paddle.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/11/Child-Abuse-Incident-Report-Form-2018.pdf>

Contact the following for advice, or to report an allegation of child abuse:

Queensland Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.police.qld.gov.au

Queensland Government, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women <https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/>

Paddle Australia also advises contacting Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety Ph: 1800 811 810

All incidents reported must be treated with the utmost discretion, and with the best interest of the child the foremost criteria.

All aspects of the Paddle Aust. reporting and investigation procedures are to be met. The Paddle Aust. “Safeguarding Children & Young People” policy document is available on Springfield Centenary Club’s website <https://sccc.paddle.org.au/newsletters-and-documents/>.

The following diagram is referred to by Paddle Qld., and is copied from the Australian Government Australian Sports Commission, Child Safe Sport document which can be found at <https://qld.paddle.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/11/Framework-for-Responding-to-Incidents-2018.pdf>.



Responding to Incidents, Disclosures, and Suspicions of Child Abuse - Four Critical Actions

You Must Take Action

As a volunteer/staff member in your sport you play a critical role protecting children and young people. You must follow the four actions below.

1 Responding

If a child is at risk of immediate harm you must ensure their safety by:

3. Separating alleged victims and others involved.
4. Administering first aid.
5. Calling 000 for agent medical and/or police assistance to respond to immediate health or safety concerns.
6. Identifying a contact person at for future liaison with Police.

If there is no immediate harm go to Action 2

2 Reporting

Any incident must be documented on the Child Abuse Incident Report

Where does the source of suspected abuse come from?

Within the family or community

Report to your jurisdictional child protection body depending on the rules in your jurisdiction.
Report to your local police and internally to the designated contact in your sport.

Within the sport

Report to the police or to the relevant body in your jurisdiction as required.
You must also report internally to your designated contact in your sport who then needs to report to Human resources, CEO, Board and contract partners.

3 Contacting

Your sport must consult with the relevant child protection authority or local police to determine the information can be shared with parents/carers.

This can include

1. Not to contact the parents or carers in circumstances where they have alleged to have engaged in the abuse or the child is a mature minor and does not wish their parent/carer to be contacted.
2. To contact the parents/carers and provide agreed information as soon as possible.

4 Supporting

Your sport should provide support for children impact on abuse which could include: the development of a safety plan, direct support and/or a referral

Key Contacts

Padde Qld. CEO
qc.eo@canoe.org.au

Child Protection
1800 811 810

Police 000 or your local police station