

Involving Youth and Young People

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Involving Youth and Young People is an ongoing process of engagement and involvement through which children and young people:

- are actively listened to
- are supported to express their views
- have their views taken into account and recorded
- are involved in decision-making processes.

The underpinning principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), article 12, clearly emphasise participation by children and young people, respect for their rights, consideration of their views and, where possible, involvement in decision-making processes affecting their lives.

To be able to take part in decision-making processes, children and young people need to be:

- provided with all relevant information which relates to the decision under consideration in a manner which takes account of their ability to comprehend and understand
- informed of the types of decisions that need to be made and the reasons for these decisions
- actively engaged with Child Safety officers in a manner which takes positive action to elicit their views, supports them in expressing those views, and considers their views when decisions need to be made
- engaged in a manner which is appropriate for the child or young person's age and developmental state and any disabilities which may require special supports to overcome potential barriers for the consideration of their views.

In some circumstances, the capacity for children and young people to actively participate in decision-making may be diminished or not be appropriate. Such circumstances may include:

- when the risk of significant harm indicates the need for statutory intervention, irrespective of the child's, young person's or parent's wishes
- when the child or young person is unable to participate fully in decision-making (e.g. due to factors such as drug or alcohol abuse, or severe disability)
- when the child's or young person's age or ability prevents them from understanding and actively contributing to the decision-making process.

In these situations, children and young people are entitled to information and involvement as is appropriate for their age, ability to understand, and psychological state, including information about the decision and rationale for the decision.

Source - (Practice resource - Participation of children and young people in decision-making, <https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/resources/childsafety/practice-manual/practice-resource-participation-of-children-young-people-decision-making.pdf>)

For practical ways your club can involve children and young people visit 'Play by the Rules – Involve Children and Young People'

<https://www.playbytherules.net.au/got-an-issue/child-safe-sport/involve-children-and-young-people>