**VMNL POLICY/PROCEDURE**

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| V05-04-02 | Working with Children Policy |

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| Purpose | The policy is made in the interests of all VMNL members (and particularly junior members) and made in addition to the requirements of the Member Protection Policy. The policy details VMNL’s expectations  |
| Scope | The policy covers all VMNL Members and all people involved in any way with VMNL related Netball activities, including but not limited to: VMNL run competitions, Trials and training for VMNL selected Victorian teams and attendance at the AMMNA Championships. |
| Policy /Procedure | VMNL expects that at the very least, all persons in a position of responsibility or authority, will hold a current WWCC as issued the Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation. This includes, but is not limited to: * Committee Members
* Coaches
* Umpires
* Officials (as determined by the VMNL, eg Sports trainers)
* Team Managers
* Other senior positions (as determined by the VMNL)

 These positions may be paid or unpaid, accredited or not-accredited. VMNL requires that all adults (18 years and older) who seeks to hold, or currently holds, a position of responsibility or authority with children (under 18 years of age) must seek and maintain a valid WWCC. The VMNL will keep a register of all members or persons who hold a working with children check. Where an adult seeks, or is in, a position of responsibility or authority with the VMNL and: refuses to seek a WWCC; or applies for, but is refused, a WWCC; then that person is ineligible to assume or continue with the position of responsibility or authority. For the avoidance of doubt a person must obtain a WWCC before they are eligible to assume the position of responsibility or authority within the VMNL It is required that each person who holds a long term position with the VMNL (being a committee member for the term of office, or coach/manager for the term of competition. or other official as deemed by VMNL) will be required to have VMNL added to their volunteer organisations listed on their WWCC. This will need to be evidenced when supplying WWCC details to VMNL. **Exemptions**Consistent with currently WWCC legislation and on production of appropriate evidence, VMNL will also consider the following persons to be eligible to hold a position of responsibility or authority: * A current serving Victoria Police Officer; and
* A current serving Australian Federal Police (AFP) officer.

 VMNL does not recognise the following persons as being exempt for having a current WWCC prior being considered eligible to hold a position of responsibility or authority:* Student Volunteers;
* Parents volunteering in an activity with their child;
* Family members and people who are closely related to the child; and
* Interstate visitors.

 **Loss of WWCC** A Negative Notice or Suspension is sent to all organisations listed with the Department of Justice and Regulation (for the WWCC) when the check has failed. This means that the Department of Justice and Regulation determines the person to pose a risk to the safety of children. This may occur upon application for a WWCC or may occur at any time the check is current. Also by law, individuals are required to advise VMNL if they have been issued with a Negative Notice. In the event VMNL is advised, either by the Department of Justice and Regulation or an individual, that a person in a position of responsibility or authority has received a Negative Notice or Suspension the VMNL will be required to immediately relieve that person of the duties they are performing that requires a WWCC. Until the person is able to provide evidence of a current WWCC they will not be considered for selection/appointment for any future roles that require WWCC. Further a Negative Notice or Suspension means that the person has failed a check and this means they have serious sexual offences or charges, violent or drug offences, any offence that present an unjustifiable risk to the safety of children and/or offences against the Working with Children Act 2005. Likely concerns about this person’s on going involvement in netball (in any manner) should be dealt with under the VMNL’s discipline policies. |

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| Approved | Draft |
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