

SLSQ Policy

Title: Cyber Bullying Policy – Children and Young People	Department: Membership
Policy No: MS14	Version: 1
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Introduction

This policy seeks to prevent and intervene in instances of cyberbullying among children and young people involved in SLSQ.

SLSQ recognises that social media and other electronic platforms provide members the opportunity to interact and build stronger bonds outside of official SLSQ activities. However, Online bullying can have a devastating impact on young people, whose online life is a key part of their identity and how they interact socially.

Children and young people have a right to participate without being subjected to instances of bullying and harassment from other members of SLSQ. SLSQ will not tolerate bullying and harassment in any form, including that which occurs via online platforms.

Cyberbullying behaviour might include (but is not limited to) utilising electronic devices or platforms to:

- Send abusive texts, emails, hurtful messages, images or videos;
- Imitate, exclude or humiliate members online;
- Spread lies and rumours;
- threaten or to intentionally frighten, intimidate or annoy someone by threatening to hurt them;
- menace, harass or seriously offend someone - this can include sending offensive messages or making posts that make someone feel extremely angry, outraged, humiliated or disgusted;
- Share intimate images.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to prevent and intervene in cyberbullying between children and young people at SLSQ. All children and young people involved, regardless of alleged or proven actions should be treated fairly and equitably.

The policy seeks to meet and exceed SLSQ’s obligations under the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, including the National Principles for child safe organisations. Specifically, principle eight *“Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimizing the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed”*.

The policy has also been written in consultation with National Principle 6 *“Organisations should have processes to respond to complaints and concerns that are child focused and uphold the rights of children and young people”*.

Definitions

MPIO: Member Protection Information Officer

SLSA: Surf Life Saving Australia

SLSQ: Surf Life Saving Queensland

Cyber bullying: intentional and repeated cruel or hurtful behaviour that is carried out using technology.

eSafety: The eSafety Commissioner is Australia's national independent regulator for online safety.

Children and young people: SLSQ members who are under the age of 18.

Policy Instruments

SLSA Member Protection Policy

SLSA Safeguarding Children and Young People Guideline

National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

National Office for Child Safety – Complaint Handling guide; upholding the rights of children and young people

SLSQ Cyberbullying procedure

Australian Human Rights Commission

Working with Children Act (Risk Management and Screening) 2000

Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth) (Division 474, Subdivision C)

Civil Liability Act 2003 s 33D & 33E

Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015 (Cth)

Policy

Children and young people involved in SLSQ have a right to be protected from cyberbullying between club members. All members should enjoy uninhibited participation and good relationships with each other according to the terms of membership and affiliation to SLSA.

Children and young people have a right to participate in SLSQ membership in an environment free from harassment and bullying.

Breaches of this policy

Where there are instances of alleged cyberbullying arise between members, all involved young people in addition to their parent or guardian should be supported to participate in resolving the complaint. Refer to the SLSQ Cyberbullying procedure for guidance on how to address a complaint of cyberbullying.

All children and young people, staff, volunteers, parents and carers should feel supported in making a complaint in relation to cyberbullying. The Club and SLSQ will take all necessary steps to ensure that no victimisation occurs against anyone who makes a complaint.

Members may face disciplinary action for breaching this policy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Whimpey".

Dave Whimpey
Chief Executive Officer
Surf Life Saving Queensland