



HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN ABOUT SOMEONE'S BEHAVIOUR

Raising concerns about someone's behavior is important in helping prevent harm and brings potential issues to the attention of people who can address them. Raising a concern is important in protecting children from harm by ensuring situations where potential risk exists to be addressed and for measures to be put in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children. Raising concerns also helps foster a culture where feedback is valued and acted upon.

CAN I RAISE A CONCERN ABOUT ANYTHING TO DO WITH FOOTY?

Yes, you can raise a concern about anything to do with footy. It can be something serious, like your safety or the safety of another child or young person involved in footy. It can also be something that worries you related to the game, to a facility (e.g. changing room, social room) or something else.

Safety can look different for different people. Cultural safety means feeling respected and safe to be yourself, including your culture, language, beliefs, and identity and that if something makes you feel culturally unsafe, it's okay to speak up. You have the right to call out bad or unsafe behaviour and have it taken seriously.

DEFINITIONS

A **Child or Young Person** is someone involved in footy under the age of 18, usually a player but could be an umpire or in another role at the club, or a sibling of a child player.

An **Adult** is someone involved in footy who is over the age of 18. This could be a coach, manager, umpire, club official, AFL staff member, volunteer, and/or a parent.

HOW DO I RAISE SOMETHING?

If you have concerns about your safety or the safety of another child or young person, or have seen or heard something that just doesn't feel right, it is important you say something:



Speak to a parent, carer, family member or trusted adult like a coach, team manager, umpire, official or club representative.

You can also talk to a trusted Elder, or cultural mentor if you have one at your club or community.



Write down your concerns and pass them onto your club or association via email or letter.



Use this QR code to raise a concern with the AFL.



For any safeguarding queries email childsafety@afl.com.au
Contact Kids helpline on 1800 55 1800 (it's free)
or www.kidshelpline.com.au

As always if anyone is in immediate danger contact the police on **000**

Remember, we want all children and young people in footy to be safe, feel safe, play safe.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I SHOULD CALL IT OUT?

You should call out unsafe behaviours or any behaviours that worry you.

You should call it out if someone in footy (a coach, an official, a volunteer, a parent or another player) does any of the following to you, or another child or young person:

- Makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe through contact or communication
- Touches you inappropriately or in any way that hurts or injures you
- Makes fun of a person's culture, language or traditions.
- Tells you not to speak your language or wear something important to your culture

- Insults or belittles you or uses punishments that harm or exclude you, or does nothing to protect you from someone else doing those things to you

Call it out if you know a behaviour is wrong. This includes behaviours that insult or hurt you about your physical appearance, body, ability or disability, culture or race, gender or sexuality.

It is possible these inappropriate behaviours are types of child abuse. There is no place for child abuse in footy. By raising your concerns, we can stop it from happening and keep you and other young people safe.

i If you need more information check out the **What does abuse in footy look like?** fact sheet; it explains the different types of child abuse, what unsafe behaviours might look like, and what you can do about it.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I CALL OUT UNSAFE BEHAVIOUR?

- 1** You **will** be listened to and believed.
- 2** All concerns no matter how big or small are taken seriously.
- 3** You **will** be given a safe space to talk to a safe person.
- 4** You are **not alone**; your culture and identity are important.
- 5** You **will** be invited to include your parents, family members or trusted person to support you when sharing your concerns, if it is safe and appropriate.
- 6** Your concerns **will** be investigated and documented appropriately.
- 7** If the behaviour you are reporting is against the law, it **will** be reported to the police and/ or other relevant authorities.
- 8** There **will not** be any repercussions to your place on the team for raising a concern.

CAN I CALL IT OUT ANONYMOUSLY?

Yes, however please remember that if you don't give us your name, we can't come back to you for further information or to update you on what we are going to do.

You can do this by using our QR Code to raise a concern.



WHAT IF MY FRIEND TELLS ME SOMETHING BUT DOESN'T WANT ME TO TELL ANYONE?

Building trust with your friend is really important, especially if they are experiencing something that is making them unsafe. You can encourage them to speak up, build their confidence, offer to come with them as support and reassure them.

Alternatively, this may be one of the times you can break their trust, if you think they are unsafe and need support and protection from a peer or an adult. Maybe tell your parent or a trusted person first and get some help from them.