



## Child Safe

# Code of Conduct

All members of, volunteers, judges and those employed to provide entertainment for Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society (BAPS) are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below:

All personnel of BAPS are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:

- Adhering to BAPS's child safe policy at all times, upholding BAPS's statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Treating everyone with respect
- Listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child has been abused and/or are worried about their safety or the safety of another
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal child's self-identification)
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example, by having a zero tolerance of discrimination)
- Promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability (for example, during personal care activities)
- Ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not left alone with a child
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse to BAPS Child Safety Officer/Secretary/President, and ensure any allegation to be reported to the police or child protection
- Reporting any concerns to BAPS Child Safety Officer/Secretary/President.
- If an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe
- Encouraging children to 'have a say' and participate in all relevant organisational activities where appropriate, especially on issues that are important to them.

**Personnel of BAPS must not:**

- Develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- Exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (for example inappropriate sitting on laps. Sitting on laps could be appropriate sometimes)
- Put children at risk of abuse
- Do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- Engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children (for example, personal social activities)

- Use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- Be under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
- Treat a child unfavourably because of their disability, age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or ethnicity.
- Have any online contact with a child by way of, but not limited to social media, messaging, texting except where that communication is reasonable in all circumstances.
- Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.

By observing these standards you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to BAPS Child Safety Officer/Secretary/President.

**If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.**

I agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct:

Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

**This document is to be signed by all Society Members, Judges, Stewards and those employed to provide entertainment for BAPS.**