



NZB Child Protection Policy – updated January 2023

Policy Statement

NZ Bridge (NZB) is committed to providing a positive, creative, learning, playing, and competitive bridge experience for children and young people throughout New Zealand. NZB recognise the responsibility to promote safe practice, and to protect children from harm and exploitation. As such, NZB is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children in their care when they are taking part in NZB organised activities.

For the purposes of this policy and associated procedures, a child or young person is recognised as someone under the age of 18 years.

Policy Principles

In implementing this policy, we refer to the NZB Health and Safety Policy Statement (Jan 2023) and its purpose and principles, and commit to the following:

- NZB will promote the welfare, health, safety and development of children in partnership with children, young people, parents/carers, employees, contractors and volunteers within the wider bridge community, recognising that child protection is everyone's responsibility.
- NZB will support staff and volunteers to provide a safe environment in which to provide teaching and playing and work experiences

Policy Objectives

The aim of this policy is to:

- promote the health and welfare of children while participating in activities organised by NZB
- support staff, members and volunteers to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect themselves and children and young people from harm,
- offer guidance to NZB members and clubs on safe working practices
- require children, staff, members and volunteers who are working directly with children and young people to deliver on behalf of NZB, to adopt and abide by this Child Protection Policy and these procedures
- respond to any allegations of misconduct or harm to children in line with this Policy and these procedures,
- regularly monitor the implementation and delivery of this Policy and these procedures

Scope of Policy

- All those who work for NZB and who have significant dealings with Children or Young people will be required to adhere to this policy and deliver services in accordance with Code of Conduct detailed in this document.
- All children and young persons under the age of 18, who connect with any activities delivered by NZB, be it educational, competition, caddying, volunteering or other such help and support need to understand the scope of support available to them.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every 12 months with the next review date: February 2024. The policy may be reviewed more frequently if legislative changes so require, or where specific concerns have been raised about the existing policy that so warrant an immediate review.

Implementation of Policy: February 2023

Ratified by NZB Board: Minutes of 19 January 2023

Next review: by February 2024