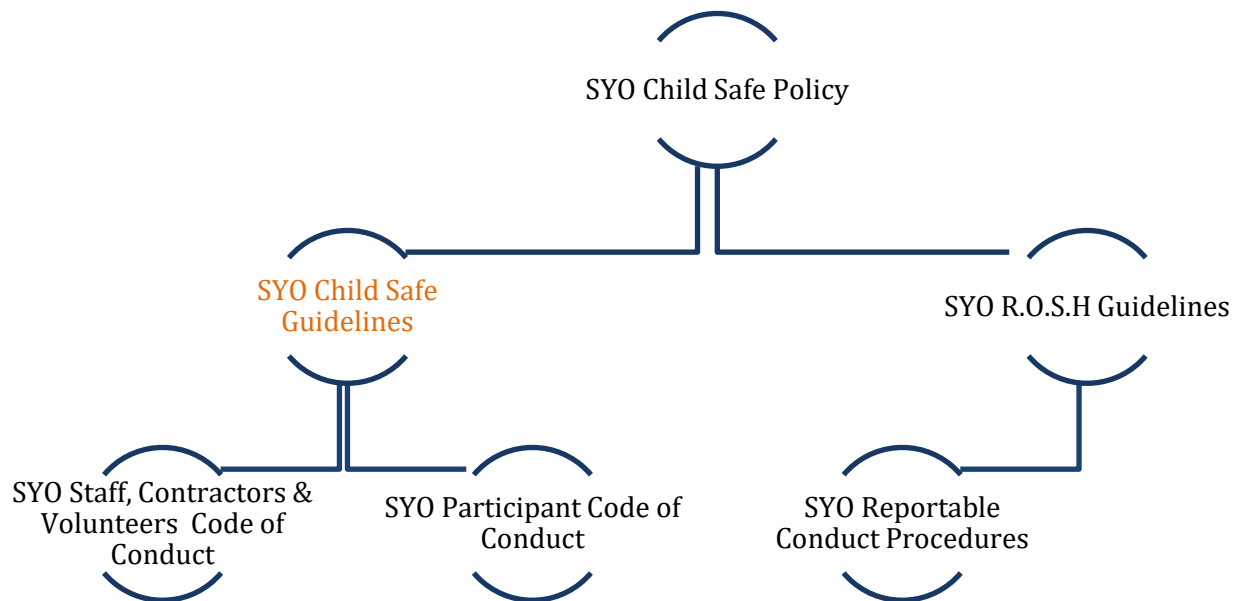


Sydney Youth Orchestras Child Safe Guidelines



Purpose

Sydney Youth Orchestras (SYO) has developed the following set of guidelines to support staff, contractors and volunteers to promote and ensure the safety of all participants.

The aim of the guidelines is to provide greater clarity in developing SYO programs and procedures.

SYO staff, contractors and volunteers are to:

- Ensure the safety, wellbeing and protection of all SYO participants
- Ensure children and young people are not exposed to foreseeable risk
- Take precautions to minimize risk
- Ensure appropriate supervision and staff/participant ratios
- Follow policies and procedures for reporting incidents
- Report if they observe others acting inappropriately
- Treat each participant with respect, sensitivity, fairness and consistency
- Demonstrate professional relationships with participants that cannot be misinterpreted as overly personal or intimate
- Review the guidelines and procedures annually.

Accidents and emergencies

Parents/guardians are required to provide up to date contact information (e.g. mobile phones and email) and medical information (including allergies) at the beginning of the year and before all camps and tours.

In the event of an accident or emergency occurring, that requires medical attention or first aid:

- SYO staff will make the best efforts to address the situation and care for the participant.
- The SYO Safety Officer present will be informed, and appropriate treatment offered.

- If an ambulance is required, the Safety Officer is to be informed at the earliest possible moment.
- SYO Staff will accompany the participant for treatment until the parents/guardians are notified and can attend.
- The SYO Safety Officer will:
 - Inform the participants' parents/guardians at the earliest possible point.
 - Inform the GM at earliest point if incident is serious.
 - Complete an incident report form to document the details of the incidents, which includes statements by all people involved.
- The incident and actions will be recorded in the activity report.

Accommodation and rooming

When SYO Participants are involved in activities which require accommodation, such as camps and tours:

- Participants under 18 will be separated by birth gender for accommodation purposes. Where participants do not identify with their birth gender, SYO will work with the participant and family to provide appropriate accommodation.
- Participants over 18 may select female, male or mix accommodation options where possible.
- Accommodation will be allocated by age either under or over 18 years of age.
- SYO staff will have final decision on accommodation assignments.
- Whenever possible, accommodation arrangements will be single rooms or 3+ per room.
- Parents/guardians will be asked to advise in advance if there is an existing relationship between participants (e.g., siblings, friends, couples etc.) that will impact room assignments.
- SYO staff will change room assignments at their discretion if issues arise during camps or on tours.
- SYO will not billet participants in homes.

Age-appropriate activities

SYO staff will:

- Arrange for age-appropriate socialisation during SYO activities.
- Arrange for separate social areas during camps and tours for those participants under 18 and those participants over 18 where appropriate.
- Taylor social activities (showing films etc.) with the age of participants in mind.

Aggressive behaviour

Aggressive behaviour between SYO participants, or from parents, volunteers or staff will not be tolerated and may lead to exclusion from SYO activities on a temporary or permanent basis.

Aggression includes:

- Words or actions (both overt and covert) that are directed towards another and intended to harm, distress, coerce or cause fear.
- Yelling, name-calling, insults, derogatory comments, physical interaction with the intention to annoy or harm and all forms of violence.

SYO staff will remove any participants demonstrating aggressive behaviour during SYO activities, including camps or tours, and contact parents/guardians immediately. This includes behaviour that has been reported by other participants or volunteers.

Pink Slips

Inappropriate behavior will be recorded on an SYO Pink Slip.

SYO Staff and Conductors will:

- Completed a Pink Slip on the day of the incident.
- Discuss with the participant on the day with two SYO adults present (conductor or SYO Staff member) the inappropriate behaviour.
- Record the issue of a Pink Slip on the activity report, with the original to be stored on the participants' file.
- Notify the GM and Orchestral Training Manager if two Pink Slips are recorded or if the behavior is at a level identified as dangerous to other students.

The GM and Orchestral Training Manager will meet with participants and their parents/guardians to discuss the behavior and decide whether the participant can continue to attend SYO activities.

There are no refunds of contributions, for participants' who are asked to leave SYO activities due to unacceptable behavior.

Boundaries

SYO staff will maintain appropriate professional boundaries with participants. These boundaries include (but are not limited to):

- Ensuring appropriate communication
- Avoiding threatening, demeaning or discriminatory language
- Not making disclosures of personal information, beyond what is required for the role.
- Maintaining appropriate physical boundaries including contact (see below) and presence – that is not being in change rooms, bedrooms or other places inappropriately; not being alone with children or young people.
- Transporting participants only with the written permission of their parents/guardians and as a group of 3 or more in cars or on public transport. Individual staff will not transport participants.
- Not targeting or singling out children or young people for special treatment, including tutoring
- Not taking on a role of counselor or similar beyond duties
- Not developing relationships outside scope of SYO duties
- Not recording images of children or young people for private records.
- Taking necessary photos or videos of participants only on SYO equipment i.e.. Phones, Tablets or Cameras
- Not communicating with students directly through email or social media on issues that are not SYO related.

Bullying and harassment

SYO has a zero-tolerance policy towards bullying and harassment.

Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behaviour that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behaviour is repeated or has the potential to be repeated over time.

Harassment is defined as behaviour that targets an individual or group due to their identity, race, culture, or ethnic origin; religion; physical characteristics; gender;

sexual orientation; marital, parenting or economic status; age; ability or disability, and that offends, humiliates, intimidates or creates a hostile environment.

Harassment may be an ongoing pattern of behaviour, or it may be a single act. It may be directed randomly or towards the same person/s. It may be intentional or unintentional (i.e. words or actions that offend and distress one person may be genuinely regarded by the person doing them as minor or harmless).

SYO staff and volunteers have a duty of care to report all actual or potential incidences of bullying and harassment on the activity reports.

Where actual incidences have occurred, a Pink Slip will be issued (See Pink Slips for full process).

Clothing and cleanliness

All participants in SYO programs are expected to be appropriately dressed for the activity.

SYO staff, contractors and volunteers are not to make comments in general about participants' appearance, especially not comments that would be considered derogatory.

SYO staff:

- Will communicate in writing with participants and parents/guardians about any specific requirements for an activity, e.g., clothes for concerts or performances, clothing for tours or camps.
- May contact the participants, parents/guardians if they believe a participant is inappropriately or inadequately dressed or prepared for an activity.
- May not permit a participant to perform if they are inappropriately or inadequately dressed or their dress does not meet the Performance Dress Standards outlined in the participant handbook or venue safety requirements (open toe shoes)
- Offer alternative dress options (tights, long skirts etc.) for participants to be able to perform if an alternative cannot be sourced.
- Request a meeting with parents/guardians of the participant if the participants inappropriate or inadequate dress is a recurring issue.
- Will work with the participant and the family to rectify the situation.

Complaints management

SYO staff will encourage participants to give feedback (positive and otherwise) about their programs and activities. In this way participants should feel empowered to raise issues as they occur.

SYO staff will:

- Handle all complaints, including potential breaches of the Code of Conduct that cannot be resolved between participants.
- Brief participants at orientation or at the beginning of a program or activity on who and how they should raise issues and complaints.
- Listen respectfully to all complaints and make best efforts to resolve any issues including those between participants.
- Refer any complaint to the SYO General Manager

SYO GM will meet with all affected parties to mediate or resolve the issue to the satisfaction all parties.

If the issue is not resolved, the complaint will be referred in writing to the SYO GM for consideration.

Contacting participants

Participants will be contacted by email, to the email address nominated when joining SYO, of any changes to this program.

Participants will be sent a full pack of information at the beginning of the year regarding details such as rehearsal times, venues, orientation camps, concerts, and other matters regarding their participation in SYO.

For participants under 18 years, this information will also be copied to the parents/guardians' email addresses nominated when the participant joins with SYO.

Corresponding with parents/guardians

It is expected that parents and/or guardians of participants are to be proactive and honest in communicating with SYO.

Before each activity, SYO will:

- Provide parents/guardians with written advice about what to expect from SYO and their responsibilities.
- Seek from the parents/guardians the required permission in writing for a child to participate in the activity acknowledging any special requirements.
- Seek from the parents/guardians up to date contact details and clear guidance (required in writing) on who has authority to take their child to and from SYO activities.

Employee, contractor, and volunteer screening

In line with NSW Child Safety Legislation, all employees, contractors, and volunteers who directly interact with children in SYO programs and activities are required to have a valid Working with Children Check.

The check is to be verified by SYO prior to any offer of employment or commencement of paid or unpaid work begins with SYO.

First Aid (training, kit, and record-keeping)

Participant safety is the most important priority to SYO.

SYO will ensure:

- All rehearsal venues, campsites, tour buses etc. will have access to a fully equipped first aid kit.
- All first aid and medication provided to a participant by SYO Safety Officers, is recorded in the First Aid Kit log, including time, date and details of dosages.
- Appointed safety officers are to be responsible for maintaining this kit, and ensuring incidents are reported appropriately.
- The Safety Officers are provided time and payment for updated first aid training.
- Parents/guardians of participants under 18, are notified in the case of first aid being administered.

Gender

SYO is committed to creating an environment where participants regardless of gender can feel safe to learn.

At SYO:

- Gender is defined as what has been recorded on a participant's birth certificate.
- Participants will be separated by gender for accommodation purposes and by age where possible or desirable.
- Accommodation will be allocated gender appropriately and SYO staff will have final decision on accommodation assignments.
- Changing rooms and bathrooms will also be single gender.
- There will always be a staff member/volunteer of each gender on camps and on tour so that participants have someone they can refer to regarding personal issues.

Physical interaction

SYO staff and volunteers are to demonstrate respect for physical and emotional boundaries of all participants, this includes:

- Adults (or participants over 18) are not to inappropriately touch (including hugging) children under 18 years.
- Being vigilant and alert for inappropriate touching between adults and children and between participants, any such touching will be immediately reported.
- Not using physical or corporal punishment.

Privacy

SYO Staff will not:

- Disclose personal and confidential information with participants.
- Share address and contact details held by SYO with other participants, conductors or tutors.
- Disclose medical, health and other personal information unless to ensure the participants safety.

Please refer to the SYO Privacy Policy for more information.

Reporting misconduct, including sexual misconduct

All misconduct (including but not limited to breeches of the Participant and Staff, Contractor, and Volunteer Codes of Conduct) will be reported to SYO staff and the GM shall be informed "in writing".

If the misconduct involves participants:

- A warning will be issued to the participant at that point, with a reminder that repeated breeches will lead to a temporary or permanent suspension from SYO activities.
- Misconduct will be recorded through the SYO Pink Slip process.
- In the case of serious misconduct (including sexual misconduct) the participant may be suspended immediately (including being removed by parents/guardians from camps or tours)
- Sexual misconduct includes but is not limited to sexual harassment, sexual abuse, sexual assault and stalking all of which are reportable to the police and Dept of Community & Justice, if victim or perpetrator are under 18 years.

If the misconduct involves SYO Staff, Contractors and volunteers the SYO Reportable Conduct Procedures will be implemented.

Risk Assessment

- SYO staff will conduct a risk assessment prior to each term, camp, tour or off-site activity involving participants.

- The risk assessment needs to be signed off by the GM prior to commencement of activity.
- The risk assessment template is attached to this document.

Supervision

- No staff member, contractor or volunteer should be alone with a participant, including during rehearsal or tutorials.
- SYO will arrange for sufficient adult (WWCC cleared) to child ratios at all SYO activities.

SIGN OFF AND REVIEW

Version	Authorised By	Approved Date	Review Cycle	Review due
3	CEO	01/04/2023	2 Years	April 2025
2	GM	02/07/2018	2 Years	May 2020
1	CEO	10/11/2016	2 Years	Nov 2018

HISTORY

Version	Description	Author	Amended Date
1	Guideline	CEO	25/01/2017
2	Guideline	GM & Hurstfield Consulting	02/07/2018
3	Guideline	CEO	01/04/2023