



### The role of the Member Protection Information Officer

**The following will assist in clarifying what member protection is, how the MPIO role operates at a club and where to obtain further information and training.**

#### FACTS & OTHER INFORMATION

1. **All clubs, associations and branches must have an identified *Member Protection Information Officer* (MPIO).**
2. The role of Child Protection Officer (CPO) no longer exists. This position is now known as Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO). The role of the MPIO falls within the Australian Sports Commissions Harassment Free Sport Strategy and is consistent with all other sports in Australia.
3. The NSW Department of Sport & Recreation recognizes the MPIO as the relevant position with regards to child protection and the Working With Children Check.
4. The contact details of the MPIO should be freely available to all members of the club/association; ideally via websites, newsletters, contact lists etc.
5. Member protection relates to:
  - ✚ Child Protection
  - ✚ Harassment & Abuse
  - ✚ Discrimination
  - ✚ Racial Vilification
  - ✚ Victimisation
6. **The role of the MPIO**

An MPIO is the first point of contact for persons (within a club/association) considering making a complaint. The MPIO provides confidential, impartial and timely information and support and acts as a sounding board about complaint resolution options.

The MPIO:

- ✚ Listens
- ✚ Is an impartial support person
- ✚ Provides information about discrimination, harassment, child protection and other member protection issues
- ✚ Provides information about relevant policies
- ✚ Can discuss (but not recommend) possible strategies available to resolve the matter
- ✚ Provides contact information for official complaints, counselling or other referrals
- ✚ Can also provide information to the club committee about child protection requirements and other definitions and information
- ✚ Can be required to coordinate the signing and collection of the child protection forms

The MPIO does not:

- ✚ Take sides
- ✚ Give advice to complainants
- ✚ Intervene
- ✚ Investigate
- ✚ Breach confidentiality
- ✚ Advocate
- ✚ Make determinations in relation to complaints

An MPIO position description is attached.

7. MPIO's can complete an Australian Sports Commission MPIO training course. This training is not essential but is recommended. Free on-line training for MPIO's is available at [www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au)

To visit the MPIO on-line database go to:

[http://www.ausport.gov.au/supporting/ethics/member\\_protection/member\\_protection\\_officers2](http://www.ausport.gov.au/supporting/ethics/member_protection/member_protection_officers2)

Member Protection Information Officers can be beneficial in creating a safer, more understanding and more enjoyable sporting environment.

For further information visit [www.ausport.gov.au](http://www.ausport.gov.au)

For information and training visit [www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au)

Enquiries please contact your club or association MPIO.