

SOCCER WEEKLY EDITORIAL AUGUST 2002
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**A WORD ABOUT CHILD PROTECTION
FOR COACHES & OFFICIALS**

Many coaches and officials are unaware of how Child Protection laws are changing the face of soccer. The NSWASF has recently distributed Guidelines to each of the 25 Association Child Protection Officers in an effort to increase knowledge about these laws.

Our next step is to help coaches and officials understand how these laws can affect them.

All Coaches and officials should ensure that they know what is and isn't acceptable behaviour when in charge of children and when around children and we provide a summary as follows:

A child related offence is any act which involves, child abuse, sexual misconduct or an act of violence which:

- (i) Involves a child
- (ii) Is directed at a child
- (iii) Which takes place in front of a child

This includes any act of assault or physical or verbal action, which puts a child (under 18 years) at risk of harm and exploits, harms or damages the child's physical, emotional or psychological well-being.

To further increase knowledge, a 'Club and Officials guide to Child protection' will be distributed prior to next season. Further information is available at www.nswasf.com.au