



ALTONA HOCKEY CLUB

**SUN SMART POLICY
OF THE
ALTONA HOCKEY CLUB INC.**

Rationale

The Altona Hockey Club Inc., Sugargum Drive, Altona (or AHC) has as a primary concern the health of club members with this being a paramount contributor to the success of our sides and the general enjoyment of sport for our players.

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world, with two out of three people experiencing some form of skin cancer during their lifetime. It is acknowledged that skin cancer is a preventable disease.

Accordingly, the following preventative policy has been developed by the AHC to improve the health of all concerned.

The AHC acknowledges its leadership role in the sport of Hockey and aims to be a good role model for affiliated clubs. The move to Sun Smart complements the club's desire to create a safer family and community environment. The AHC believes that such an environment and image will be advantageous in attracting new members and positively promoting our sport and the club to the community.

Who is affected by this Policy

The policy applies to all members, administrators, officials, coaches, players, visitors and volunteers of the Altona Hockey Club Inc.

Timing

This policy is effective from **31st March 2003**.

Functions

Where possible, outdoor events and training times held at the nominated address will be scheduled outside the hours of 11am and 3 pm (daylight savings time).

Shade

The AHC will maximise the use of natural shade provided from buildings, trees, and other structures. Where natural shade does not exist, the club should provide portable shade structures for use by officials, spectators and players. Individuals will also be encouraged to bring their own shade structures to club events. Players and officials will be encouraged to make use of the dug-outs during game intervals as a means of providing protective shade.

Clothing

The AHC will promote or supply participants and officials with sun protective clothing as part of the uniform where practical. This will include:

- Shirts or playing tops which have long sleeves and a collar

- 'Bucket' hats or soft foam visors whilst playing, otherwise wide brimmed or legionnaires hats and sunglasses to protect the eyes.

Sunscreens

SPF 15+ or higher sunscreens will be promoted or provided by the club. Prior to training or playing in peak UV periods, players and participants will be encouraged to apply sunscreen to exposed body parts. The club kiosk will make sunscreens available for sale to members and spectators.

Education

The AHC will provide skin cancer educational sessions to increase the awareness of this health issue amongst club members. Event programs, newsletters and public announcements during the event will be used to maintain awareness of the issue and to prompt sun smart behaviour. Board members, coaching staff and conscientious players will help to influence the acceptance and implementation of the policy and will act as suitable SunSmart role models.

Litigation

AHC acknowledges its legal responsibilities to address the issue of sun protection for players, officials and spectators. Although litigation is in its infancy, it is a consideration for the AHC Board.

Junior Sport

The AHC requires that all coaches and managers encourage players to consider their options in respect to their sun smart options.

Policy Review

The policy will be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting for 2003 and then on an annual basis thereafter. This will ensure that the policy remains current and practical.

Dated: 27th February 2003

Reviewed: Policy to be reviewed annually

For and on Behalf of its Members.
The Altona Hockey Club Inc. Board