

LEV VLASSENKO PIANO COMPETITION

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

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1. Commitment to Child Safety

Lev Vlassenko is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

We have zero tolerance for child abuse, and are committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

All Lev Vlassenko personnel have a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

2. Introduction & Purpose

We are committed to ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of all children involved in all aspects of the Competition. As an Australian organisation that works with children, we have a role in protecting children and has implemented the plans, policies and procedures outlined in this policy to ensure this.

The purpose of this policy is to establish and outline the principles that must be followed when engaging with Children.

3. Scope

Who this policy applies to:

This policy applies to all people and organisations associated with or involved in the Lev Vlassenko Piano competition, whether they are in a paid, unpaid, or voluntary capacity. This includes, but is not limited to, board members, leadership, staff, volunteers, contractors, parents, and participants.

We expect all people and organisations associated with or involved with us to adhere to the plans, policies and procedures outlined in this policy. Breaches of this policy will be dealt with in accordance with this policy.

This policy will continue to apply to a person or organisation even after they have ceased their association with us if disciplinary action relating to an alleged breach of this policy has commenced.

What this policy applies to:

This policy applies to all of our activities that involve, result in, or relate to contact with children.

4. Key Principles

In accordance with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, we will consciously and systematically:

- Create an environment where children's safety and wellbeing is the centre of thought, values and actions;
- Create conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people;
- Create conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying any harm; and
- Respond to any concerns, disclosures, allegations, or suspicions.

5. Definitions

Child is defined, in this policy, as an individual that is under 18 years of age. For the purpose of this policy, the definition of *Child* is the same as the definition in the *Child Protection Act 1999* (Qld).

Parent is defined as the child's mother, father, or someone else having or exercising parental responsibility for the child. For the purpose of this policy, the definition of *Parent* is the same as the definition in the *Child Protection Act 1999* (Qld).

6. Policy Distribution & Acknowledgement

We will ensure that all people that this policy applies to are aware of and have the ability to access and read this policy. We will also require people that work directly with children to sign a written acknowledgement indicating that they have read, understood, and will abide by this policy. We will retain a copy of all signed acknowledgements which will be managed and protected in accordance with the privacy plan.

7. Children & Lev Vlassenko's Activities

The Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition is divided into two competitions which both invite eligible pianists under the age of 18 to apply and compete. These competitions both involve, result in, and relate to contact with children and will both be impacted by this policy.

The Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition is open to pianists who, on commencement of the competition, are aged at least 16 and no older than 30. If an applicant is a child, then this policy shall apply to the extent that the competition activities involve, result in, or relate to contact with this child.

The Young Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition is open to pianists who, on commencement of the competition, are aged no older than 16. This policy shall apply to all competition activities as all applicants are children.

8. Working with Children Requirements

All people who are required to work directly with children must comply with the relevant working with children obligations in their jurisdiction. This may include a requirement to undergo and pass a *Working With Children Check* ('WWCC'), and to provide evidence of the WWCC to us before working directly with the child. The evidence of the WWCC provided to us will be managed and protected in accordance with the Privacy Plan, and details will be kept on our WWCC Register.

People who work directly with children that have been appointed by us are also required to have read and understood this policy prior to working directly with children.

Working directly with children may include activities where a person, as part of their duties, has direct contact with children that is face-to-face, physical, written, oral or electronic. Where this definition of working directly with children is inconsistent with a law, the definition in the law shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

9. Supervision

Children must be in the presence of and supervised by a parent or guardian during all aspects of the Competition. We, and people representing or associated with us, should not have individual contact with a child without their parent or guardian present.

In addition, it is the parent or guardian's responsibility to ensure that they are in the presence of and supervising their child whenever they are engaging with any aspect of the Competition.

10. Personal Information About Children

Personal information about children is managed and protected in accordance with our Privacy Plan.

11. Images & Videos of Children

Images, videos, or other digital media of children is managed and protected in accordance with our Privacy Plan.

We will at all times act in accordance with any applicable laws or regulations within the appropriate jurisdiction relating to the capture, storage and dissemination of images, videos or other digital media of children.

Children must only be photographed, recorded, or digitally captured by our personnel while involved in competition activities and only if:

- The image, recording or digital capture is taken while the child's parent or guardian is present;
- The context of the image, video or other digital media is directly related to participation in The Lev Vlassenko Competition; and
- The child is dressed and posed appropriately.

12. Direct Communication & Physical Contact

Personnel should avoid physical contact with a child.

If a child is in obvious distress or approaches a person who is not their parent or guardian and the parent or guardian is not present, the person must act responsibly and remain in public view while with the child. Personnel are required to report to Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition management or board members any situation where they were with the child without their parent or guardian as soon as possible.

Personnel are also required to report to our management or board members any inappropriate (e.g. sexual or aggressive) direct communication or physical contact that was initiated by the child as soon as possible.

13. Risk Assessment

We will complete a risk assessment for all activities that involve, result in, or relate to contact with children. The risk assessment must identify specific risks of the activity to the health, safety, or wellbeing of children. These risks must be documented, and controls implemented to remove or reduce the risks to children.

14. Responsibilities

Organisational Responsibilities

We are responsible for:

- Ensuring that appropriate and effective child protection control systems, policies and procedures are in place;

- Publishing, distributing and promoting this policy;
- Ensuring that this policy is available or accessible to people and organisations that this policy applies to;
- Promoting and modelling appropriate standards of behaviour in line with this policy;
- Recognising and dealing with any breaches or complaints that are made under this policy; and
- Regularly reviewing and updating this policy if required at least annually.

Individual Responsibilities

People affected by this policy are responsible for:

- Making themselves aware of, reading and abiding by this policy;
- Reporting suspected breaches of this policy;
- Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children; and
- Following the complaints process in this policy to report suspected breaches.

15. Breach of Policy

It is a breach of this policy for any person or organisation, affected by this policy, to do anything contrary to this policy or this policy's purpose of ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of all children.

Breaches of this policy will be investigated and managed by The Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition board in a fair, unbiased and supportive manner. Where a breach of this policy constitutes a breach of any law, action may also be taken by us in accordance with that law.

16. Reporting Complaints & Incidents

Any report of, or complaint about, inappropriate behaviour by persons within The Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition or associated with us can be reported to:

Mrs Wendy Callinan

Chair of the Board

Email: management@lev-vlassenko.com

We will treat any complaint seriously and manage it appropriately and fairly and in accordance with the law.