
BLUE CARD POLICY

Introduction

This information is subject to change at any time. Refer to Blue Card Services at www.bluecard.qld.gov.au for further information.

The Blue Card System is regulated by 2 pieces of legislation: the [Working with Children \(Risk Management and Screening\) Act 2000](#) (the Act) and the [Working with Children \(Risk Management and Screening\) Regulation 2020](#). The Blue Card System requires people who work with children under 18 years of age in certain categories of paid or voluntary employment or those who operate child-related businesses, to undergo a Working with Children Check. The Working with Children Check is a comprehensive assessment of a person's suitability to work with children based on their criminal history and teacher registration, if any. Those found suitable to work with children and young people are issued a suitability card, otherwise known as a blue card. **The blue card must be renewed every three years.**

Association (LAQ) Requirements

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for the implementation of these requirements and ensuring compliance with all applicable legislation.

Little Athletics Queensland acknowledges the importance of the Blue Card System and their position as a 'Regulated Business'. As such, Blue Cards will be required to be linked to Little Athletics Queensland **prior to commencement** for all staff, volunteers and officials engaged by LAQ. This includes but is not limited to:

- Permanent and casual staff, including apprentices and students undertaking placements,
- Board members and members of sub-committees, including the Competition Committee & Officials Committee,
- Officials appointed at Association-managed events,
- Contract coaches and presenters,
- Representative Team Managers (e.g., ALAC or Development Tours),
- Regional Coordinators.

To ensure responsible persons are appointed within each Centre, Centre Managers must also have their valid Blue Card linked to LAQ.

Little Athletics Queensland will maintain a register of linked applicants via the Blue Card Services Organisation Portal.

Centre Requirements

The Centre Manager is responsible for the implementation of these requirements and ensuring compliance with all applicable legislation.

Each affiliated Centre is bound by the legislation to ensure they are compliant with all applicable Blue Card requirements. The Act requires Little Athletics Centres to develop and implement a risk management strategy to promote the well-being of children in their care and protect them from harm. Advice on developing a specific risk management plan can be obtained from Blue Card Services.

Little Athletics Queensland requires all Centre committee members and coaches to maintain a valid Blue Card. On-field officials who do not have a child participating at the Centre must also maintain a Blue Card. Volunteer parents who only assist with on-field roles (eg. age group manager, measuring, starting) do not require a Blue Card, provided their child is participating at the Centre. A restricted person cannot rely on this exemption. **Individual Centres are responsible for complying with these rules and maintenance of their own Blue Card database.**

Little Athletics Queensland recommends that all Centres utilise the online Organisation Portal for maintaining their Blue Card database.

Failure of a Centre to meet their obligations under the Act, or this document, may result in their affiliation being immediately terminated.

Centres are welcome to implement additional Blue Card requirements above and beyond what is outlined in this document should they wish, without prejudicing the rights of any regular member.

Version History

Policy	Review Date
Blue Card Policy v3	August 2023
Blue Card Policy	August 2008
Blue Card Policy	August 2005

As of the time of writing, this table includes all policies that were accessible. The absence of inclusion in this table does not suggest that no further updates occurred, rather they were simply not accessible as of May 2023.