



Volunteers

The success of any club relies heavily on the number of volunteers who are willing to provide their time and experience for, in most cases, no reward.

Whilst acting in one of these voluntary capacities you need to be aware a volunteer or the club, for which you are providing services, can be held liable for an incident, should something go wrong.

The Volunteers Act implemented in each state and territory of Australia does not provide immunity against all situations.

You can, however, be comforted by knowing Volunteers are protected by the clubs insurance under their affiliation insurance program whilst they are acting on behalf of the club.

These days it is becoming more common for volunteers to be reimbursed for their expenses or paid an honorarium so clubs should check with their local Workcover Authority and the ATO to ensure they are not crossing the border into employee or sub-contractor status as cover may be prejudiced.

All clubs, organising committees or other similar groups must undertake background checks on their volunteers to ensure they meet legislative requirements i.e. "working with children" as if not, fines up to \$140,000 apply in some states.

In the event of a claim, whether it be Liability or Personal Injury, the club will be required to provide proof the Volunteer in question was rostered on, on the day of the incident. It is therefore good practice to maintain a register of all volunteers of the club, recording names, dates of service, duties assigned.

For this reason, it is not advisable to be utilising spectators or other people from the sidelines to fill some of these voluntary roles. You need to ensure these rolls are organised in advance, volunteer rosters are maintained and checklists form part of your day to day risk management.