

Document Control

Version Control

Date	Version	Details	Author
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Approval

Delegation required for approval: Chief Executive Officer

Name: Catherine Clark Position: Chief Executive Officer

Purpose and Background

Policy Statement

The *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Act)* requires all people conducting activities with children whether as an employee or as a volunteer to have a blue card.

This means that all volunteers and paid employees at a netball club or association will need a blue card to provide services to children or conduct activities with children including working or volunteering with a children's sports team.

The Act provides that you may not need a blue card if you are a parent who volunteers where your child attends such activities at a club or association or similar. This decision however is up to the organisation, so please check with the club or association about its blue card requirements.

Notwithstanding the exemptions in the Act, Netball Queensland strongly recommends that anyone that conducts activities with children including parents have a blue card.

All coaches and umpires must have a blue card as part of their accreditation.

FAQ

What is restricted employment?

Restricted employment refers to particular exemptions which allow a person to work with children without a blue card, such as:

- a volunteer parent;
- a volunteer who is under 18; or
- paid or unpaid staff who work in child regulated employment for not more than 7 days in a calendar year

Do I need a Blue Card if I am a volunteer parent?

A parent volunteering at the same place their child is participating in activities does not need a blue card.

Notwithstanding this, Netball Queensland strongly encourages that anyone who conducts activities with children, including parents, have a blue card. This will be at the discretion of your netball club or association.

A restricted person (see below) cannot rely on this exemption.

Do I need a Blue Card if I am under 18?

You do not need a blue card if you are a volunteer who is under 18. You will need a blue card if you are paid for your work.

Do I need a Blue Card if the work I am doing is not frequent?

You don't need a blue card if you are a paid employee, volunteer or student and you work for no more than 7 days in a calendar year.

For this test, a 'day' includes a full day or part of a day (e.g. 2 hours of work on 1 day is considered to be a day). A 'calendar year' covers the period from 1 January to 31 December.

Does my profession exempt me from requiring a Blue Card (e.g. police officer, registered health practitioner, ambulance services officer, teacher etc)?

For work outside of your professional duties you require a blue card or in some circumstances a blue card exemption.

Can I start work before my Blue Card application is processed?

The "No Card, No Start" law means you must have a valid blue card before you start work.

What are my responsibilities as a restricted person?

A restricted person is a person who:

- has been issued a negative notice, or
- has a suspended blue card, or
- is a disqualified person, or
- has been charged with a disqualifying offence which has not been finalised.

As a restricted person, you must not start or continue to work in restricted employment. If you currently work in restricted employment, you must immediately stop or you will be breaking the law and can be prosecuted.