Blue cards for sport, fitness and recreation VET students

VET factsheet

Background

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) states that students need a blue card if their practical placement in sport or active recreation includes conducting activities that involve children.

This factsheet provides information about how this requirement impacts Queensland school Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) delivering nationally recognised qualifications in sport, fitness and recreation as listed as part of Training Packages on training.gov.au.

The blue card system

The blue card system is a key prevention and monitoring system of people working with children and young people in Queensland. It aims to minimise the risks of harm to children and young people by contributing to the creation of safe and supportive environments, and is founded on the principle that all children have a fundamental right to be protected from harm — this right is outlined in the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000.

On 1 October 2016, the blue card system and administration transitioned from the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) to DJAG: www.justice.qld.gov.au.

Blue cards for sport, fitness and recreation students

Why do these students need a blue card?

Students need a blue card if their work or practical placement in sport and active recreation includes, or is likely to include, providing services or conducting activities that involve children.

Current written advice from Blue Card Services (BCS) confirms that there is no exemption for Queensland school students who are undertaking nationally recognised qualifications in sport, fitness and recreation when working with young people under 18 years of age.

Specifically, students who are enrolled in a sport, fitness or recreation qualification must have a blue card prior to conducting sport, fitness and recreation activities when working with:

- students in their own class
- other students at their own school
- students from other schools
- anyone under 18 years of age.
Does this apply to students doing school subjects involving sport, fitness and recreation?

Current written advice from BCS confirms that a blue card is not required by students for sport, fitness or recreation activities that are outside of the school RTO operations, such as Authority-registered subjects or other school sport, fitness and recreation activities.

What this means for Queensland school RTOs

School RTOs offering nationally recognised qualifications in sport, fitness and recreation as listed as part of Training Packages on training.gov.au must comply with the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015, including Standards 4 to 6 and clause 8.5. This means they:

- must advise students and parents/carers of the blue card requirement in their marketing of these qualifications
- are responsible for applying for blue cards on behalf of their trainee students who do not already hold a card
- must ensure trainee students hold a valid blue card before they commence a practical placement as part of their studies
- must comply with all Commonwealth, state and territory legislation regulatory requirements relevant to its operations and retain appropriate records regarding this.

Important blue card information

How long will the application process take?
As a guide, allow 28 business days for applications to be processed.

What does it cost?
There is no application fee for students enrolled in qualifications under the school RTO status.

How long is the blue card valid?
Blue cards for students are valid for three years.

Managing the blue card application process

Pay careful attention when completing applications — incorrectly completed applications may be returned unprocessed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application section</th>
<th>Tips for successful applications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part A — Child-related activity details</td>
<td>Select ‘Student’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part B — Organisation details, 1: Name of organisation</td>
<td>Identify your school as an RTO, e.g. Sunshine SHS (RTO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part C — Category of child-related activity</td>
<td>Select ‘Sport and active recreation’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part D — Applicant details</td>
<td>To be completed by the student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part E — Proof of identity</td>
<td>You must sight two current, original identification documents that show the student’s full name and date of birth, one of which must show the student’s signature. We recommend attaching photocopies to the application.</td>
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Finding out more

For more information about the blue card for volunteers and students, visit the Blue Card Services website at www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/volunteers or phone 1800 113 611.

For other vocational education and training (VET) information, visit QCAA’s website at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/vet, or ask the VET Unit a question at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/vet/ask-question.