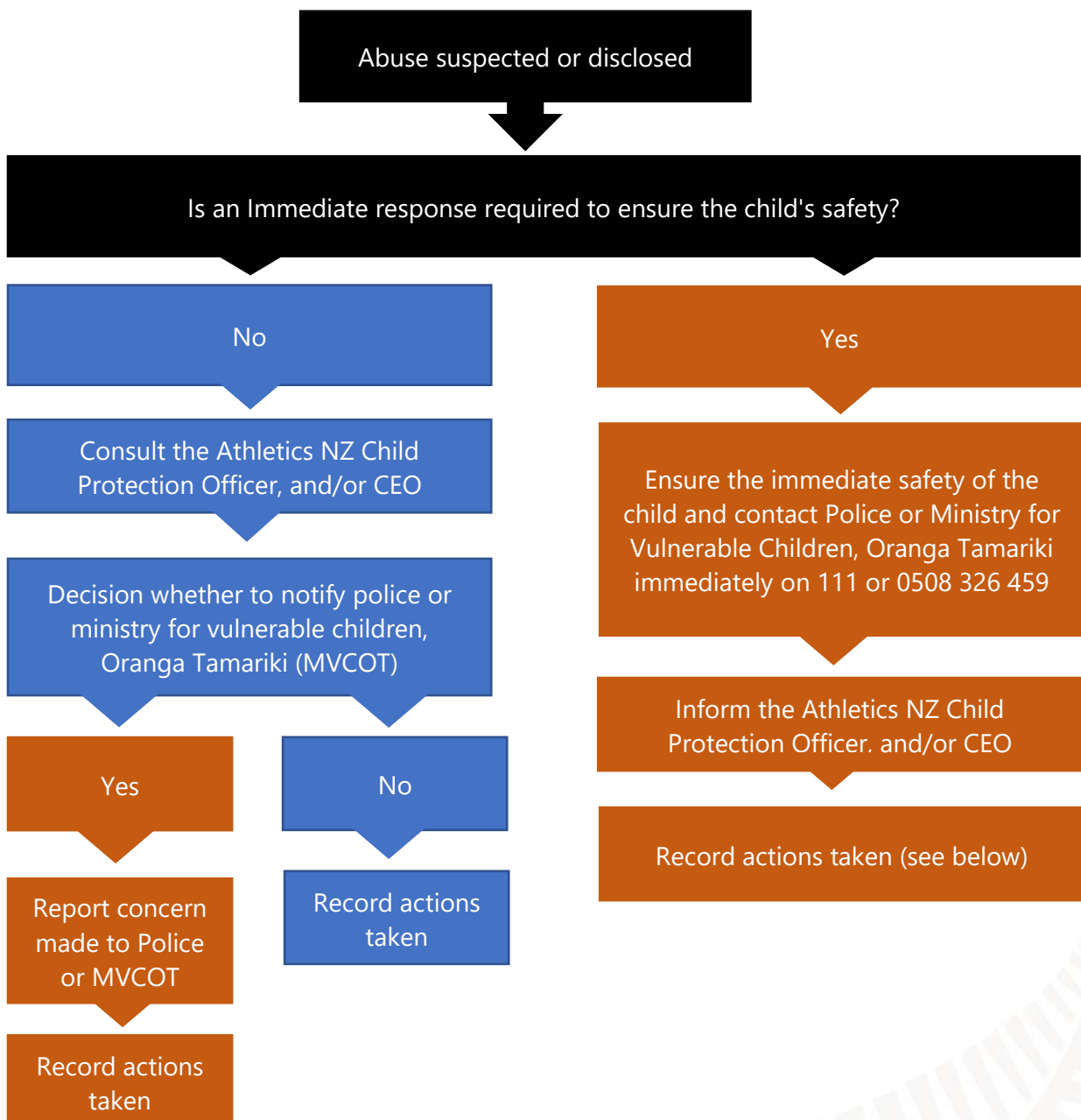


Responding to disclosed or suspected child abuse and neglect

As a volunteer within our sport, it is your responsibility to act on any serious concerns, the following is a step by step guide to the actions you should take if abuse is suspected or disclosed.



Additional Notes

Where abuse is suspected or reported, the welfare and interests of the child are the first and paramount considerations.

- Ensure the child is safe from immediate harm
- Consult immediately with nominated person-in-charge (for example, if on a trip, consult the overall team manager)
- As soon as possible, record accurately and appropriately the information received
- Records should be factual (not opinion or hearsay) and concise and include:
 - The nature of the allegation
 - Who noticed/disclosed the abuse and their relationship to the child
 - Details of any witnesses (name, address, phone number, email)
 - Signs and symptoms noted (including behavioural change)
 - Any particular incidents with dates, times, and places (if possible)
 - Any action taken
- Consult with others as necessary – do not work alone.
- Avoid questioning the child beyond what has already been disclosed.
- Do not question or counsel the alleged offender.
- Do not investigate/presume expertise unless very experienced and qualified to do so.
- Notify the Athletics New Zealand Child Protection Officer

Athletics NZ Child Protection Officer

Athletics NZ has an appointed Child Protection Officer, who is the person of contact for any concerns related to child safety.

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