

# Western Australian Rogaining Association Child Protection Policy

## Policy Statement

WARA is committed to providing an environment that is safe for participation in rogaining.

WARA will not tolerate the criminal act of child sexual maltreatment, which occurs when a child (defined as a person under the age of 18 years) has been exposed or subjected to sexual behaviors or acts which are exploitative and/or inappropriate to his or her development level. Such behavior involves a wide range of sexual activities, which exploit children, and includes forcing, Tricking, bribing, threatening or pressuring a child into sexual activity.

This Child Protection Policy conveys a message to all members and prospective members, responsible for rogaining activities, particularly those involving members under 18 years of age, about minimizing risk exposure. Managers, coaches, officials, leaders, trainers and management personnel, have a responsibility to provide safeguards dedicated to the well-being of those under the age of 18 years (youth).

The abuse of youth members, by other members or external source, is not acceptable and WARA encourages all incidents of such abuse as described to be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities.

## Code of Conduct

WARA endorses the following Code of Conduct for those responsible for activities involving persons under the age of 18 years. As a member you should meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct.

All WARA members will ensure a climate, which avoids totally:

- abusive initiation ceremonies
- sleeping in closed quarters with youths without a second adult representative, parent, etc.
- aggressive, physically distressing or sexually provocative activities
- sexually suggestive comments about or to a youth
- inappropriate or intrusive touching of a youth

## Members will:

- require parents and teachers to be responsible for children at events
- maintain an open door policy when conducting briefings. Meetings and assemblies of members
- invite all youths, parents, friends and other leaders to participate, particularly when performing interviews, transporting youth members and conducting excursions
- maintain a safe environment for children

## Youths have the right to:

- To be safe;
- be listened to;
- be respected;

- privacy;
- take calculated risks in a protective environment;
- an inclusive environment;
- be referred to professional help if needed;
- be protected from abuse by other members or outside sources.

**Members have the right to:**

- access to ongoing training and information on all aspects of leading/managing activities for youths, particularly member protection;
- support in the reporting of suspected abuse;
- access to professional support services;
- be protected from abuse by youths, other adult members and parents.

**WARA has the right to:**

- expect all members to comply with its Code of Conduct;
- expect all youth members to maintain standards of reasonable behavior;
- take appropriate action if members breach the Code of Conduct or WARA Policy;
- expect all members to undertake appropriate training when advised to;
- expect all members not to abuse members physically, emotionally or sexually;
- take appropriate action in the event of accusations.

**Youths are responsible for:**

- showing respect to both youth and adult members;
- keeping themselves safe;
- accurately reporting inappropriate behavior or risky situations for youth members.

**Members are responsible for:**

- fostering teamwork to ensure the safety of youth members in their care;
- using appropriate team management behavior;
- responding to youth member's statements concerns about alleged abuse;
- ensuring the rights and responsibilities of youth members are enforced;
- reporting suspected abuse to the appropriate authority;
- not abusing members physically, emotionally or sexually;
- maintaining confidentiality about sensitive information.

**WARA is responsible for:**

- providing a safe environment for members;
- providing this policy to members;
- facilitating open discussion on child protection issues;
- provide support to members who report accusations of abuse;

- treating suspected abuse information confidentially;
- taking appropriate action if members breach standards of reasonable behavior or policies and regulations.