

This Child Safeguarding Policy demonstrates strong commitment to child safety and wellbeing and how the Western Australian Rogaining Association (WARA) acts to keep children safe from harm.

Prepared by	WARA Child Safeguarding Sub Committee
Approved by	WARA Committee? 2025
Effective date	? 2025
Updated by	
Review Schedule	Every 5 years

Commitment to Child Safety

All children who come to WARA events have a right to feel and be safe. The welfare of the children at WARA events will always be a WARA priority and WARA has a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse or harm. WARA seeks to be a Child Safe Organisation. It aims to create a child safe and child-friendly environment where children feel safe and have fun while enjoying rogaining.

Purpose

This policy outlines how WARA prioritises the safety and wellbeing of children and what steps WARA takes to do this.

Scope

This policy applies to all persons engaged in WARA activities of any sort.

Definitions

Committee:

Refers to the WARA Committee.

Child abuse:

Occurs when a child has been subjected to physical, sexual abuse &/or other exploitation, including child grooming, or emotional abuse, neglect, or exposure to violence, including family and domestic violence. It may involve ongoing, repeated, or persistent abuse, or arise from a single incident

Harm:

Harm, in relation to a child, means any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child's wellbeing, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance, or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances.

Child:

Means any person under 18 years of age, and in the absence of positive evidence of age, means a person apparently under 18 years of age.

Child Safe Organisation:

Is defined in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse [Final Report](#) as one that:

- creates an environment where children's safety and wellbeing are at the centre of thought, values, and actions
- places emphasis on genuine engagement with and valuing of children and young people

Child Safeguarding Policy

- creates conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people
- creates conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying any harm, and
- responds to any concerns, disclosures, allegations, or suspicions of harm.

Implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations give effect to the above.

Concerns and complaints:

Under this Policy, includes an allegation (written or verbal) expressing dissatisfaction in, or concerns about, the conduct of WARA (including its volunteers and members), and includes the handling of a prior concern.

A *concern* refers to any potential issue that could impact negatively on the safety and wellbeing of children.

A *complaint* is an expression of dissatisfaction to WARA related to one or more of the following WARA services or dealings with children:

- allegations of abuse or misconduct by a member, volunteer or other person associated with WARA
- disclosures of abuse or harm at a WARA event made by a child or young person
- the conduct of a child or young person at a WARA event
- the inadequate handling of a prior concern
- general concerns about the safety of a group of children or activity.

Role of the Committee

The Committee has the role of making sure WARA prioritises children's safety and that action is taken when anyone raises concerns about children's safety.

The Committee will champion and model a child safe culture at WARA. The Committee encourages anyone involved with WARA to report any child safety concern. The Committee will work to create a positive culture around reporting so that people feel comfortable to raise concerns.

Families and communities

WARA recognises the important role of families in the sport of rogaining, and involves parents and carers when making significant decisions about their child. Parents, families and communities are welcome to provide feedback at any time to WARA and are encouraged to raise any concerns they have with WARA.

WARA provides information to families and the rogaining community about WARA child safe policies and practices including through publishing this Child Safeguarding Policy on the WARA website.

Valuing diversity

WARA values diversity and equity for all children. WARA

- welcomes and supports the participation of all children, including children with disability, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, those who are unable to live at home, LGBTIQ children and Aboriginal children and their families.

- has zero tolerance of racism or other forms of unlawful discrimination and will take action when discrimination or exclusion is identified.

Recruiting volunteers

WARA requires volunteers to have appropriate qualifications for their roles and check to make sure these qualifications are valid. WARA requires a Working with Children Check for First Aider volunteers and any Trainers who coach a group that includes children.

WARA accepts high school age child volunteers only if they are accompanied by a parent, guardian or mentor with a WWC card.

Note: Hash House child volunteers must be 15 or older and accompanied by a parent, guardian or mentor with a WWC card.

First Aid & Training officers

WARA's *Interacting with Children Guidelines* apply to all persons engaged in WARA activities of any sort.

https://wa.rogaine.asn.au/images/Resources/WWC_Interacting_With_Children_Guidelines_WARA_v2024-10-14.pdf

First Aiders will seek consent before treating children, explain their treatment intentions and ensure that a child is accompanied by preferably their guardian or another person with a WWC card. First Aiders will document their actions and request sign off by those present.

Training volunteers will abide by the WARA's *Interacting with Children Guidelines*.

Complaints and reporting

All reports of child abuse and child safety concerns will be treated seriously by WARA, whether they are made by an adult or a child and whether they are about the conduct of an adult or a child.

All complaints and child safety concerns will be responded to promptly and thoroughly. Complaints related to child safety will be referred to WA Police for their assessment whether Police investigation into a potential criminal offence is appropriate.

Child Safety Person or Membership Protection Information Officer

All child safety complaints, concerns, incidents and near misses will be recorded in the incident reporting system. The WARA designated Committee member at each event has initial responsibility for responding to any child safety related complaints or concerns at any WARA event. The designated WARA Committee member is required to have a WWC card.

Confidentiality

WARA will keep information about complaints confidential, except where it is necessary to share information to respond properly to a complaint or to prioritise child safety.

WARA will share information with external authorities (such as WA Police and official sports integrity agencies) to comply with the law or to prioritise safety. WARA may also share information with any external investigators engaged to investigate a complaint.

Record keeping

WARA is committed to making and keeping full and accurate records about all child-related complaints or safety concerns.

Records which may assist with the investigation of a complaint or safety concern will be identified and kept as part of the record of an investigation. Records will be kept even if an investigation does not substantiate a complaint.

WARA will record and keep the outcome of any investigations, and the resolution of any complaints. This includes findings made, reasons for decisions and actions taken.

Records will be stored securely and kept by WARA.

Risk

WARA recognises the importance of identifying and managing risks of child harm and abuse in all WARA activities.

WARA conducts regular risk assessments, including the risk of child abuse and harm at WARA. Identified risks and an outline of their treatments, are documented in WARA's risk register. These risk assessments include review of WARA's child safe practices and policies .

The Committee is responsible for approving the risk register and associated actions.

Non-compliance with this policy

WARA will enforce this policy and any other child safety and wellbeing policies. Potential breaches will be investigated and may result in restriction of duties, suspension or termination of membership.

Review

WARA will review relevant practices and policies in response to a child safety incident or 'near miss'. Findings from reviews will be reported to the Committee and also inform WARA's approach to continuous improvement of WARA child safety practices.

Beyond such "incident driven" reviews, WARA seeks to review its [critical] policies¹ over a five year cycle.

Reviews are overseen by the Committee and will be informed by consultation with children, families and members.

This policy is based on

¹ Child safeguarding; Membership safety; Complaints policies



Child Safeguarding Policy

- [*Children and Community Services Act 2004*](#)
- [*Working with Children \(Screening\) Act 2004*](#)
- Documents from www.rogainevic.org.au , www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au and www.sportwest.com.au

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