

CHILD SAFETY – A SAFE PLACE FOR ALL MEMBERS

POLICY STATEMENT

All members of the Western Region Academy of Sport (WRAS) have the right to feel safe at all times.

If a member (or their parents/guardians) have concerns, feels uncomfortable or unsafe with anything they see, hear or experience while part of WRAS – please tell someone.

WRAS' COMMITMENT TO MEMBERS – CHILD SAFETY

WRAS is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people who participate in our activities. We support the rights of the child and will act at all times to ensure that a child safe environment is maintained.

We also support the rights and wellbeing of our staff and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure and safe environment for all participants.

WRAS will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children. To minimise the likelihood of engaging (or retaining) people who are unsuitable to work with children, WRAS will ensure that Working with Children Checks are conducted for all employees and volunteers.

WRAS opposes all forms of harassment, discrimination and bullying.

The full WRAS Member Protection Policy (including Codes of Behaviour for athletes, squad staff and parents) is available on the WRAS website.

WRAS COACHES, VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

WRAS will take all reasonable steps to ensure that it engages the most suitable and appropriate people to work with children. To minimise the likelihood of engaging (or retaining) people who are unsuitable to work with children, WRAS ensure that all coaches, volunteers and staff:

- Complete Working with Children Checks
- Acknowledge and abide by WRAS policies
- Complete Play by the rules Online Training; Child Protection and Harassment and Discrimination courses
- Attend regular child safe education sessions arranged by WRAS

WRAS is committed to regularly training and educating our coaches, volunteers and staff on child abuse risks.

We are committed to identifying risks early and reducing or removing these risks.

We monitor our coaches, staff and volunteers to ensure appropriate practices and behaviours are followed.

We communicate with our staff and volunteers to ensure they understand and abide by WRAS policies.

Authorised by: WRAS Executive Officer	Title: Child Safety	Page: 1
Version Date: September 2022	Next Review: September 2023	No of Pages: 3

SOCIAL MEDIA – USING IT SAFELY

WRAS has a [Social Media Policy](#) which all members are expected to comply with. The policy is available on the WRAS website. The NSW Government Office of the Children's Guardian has a handy tip sheet on how you can protect yourself online. [Link to tip sheet](#)

WRAS may disclose a member's sensitive information to the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority or relevant National Sporting Organisation if required (in line with WRAS Privacy Policy).

SUPERVISION OF ATHLETES

Members under the age of 18 will be supervised at all times by a responsible adult. WRAS will provide a level of supervision adequate and relative to the members' age, maturity, capabilities, level of experience, nature of activity and nature of venue, until their parents collect them.

For reasons of courtesy and safety, parents/guardians must collect their children on time. If it appears a member will be left alone with just one child at the end of any WRAS activity, they will ask another member to stay until the child is collected.

COMMUNICATION WITH ATHLETES

WRAS will use Team App to communicate with athletes about their WRAS program. Team App is set up to ensure parents/guardians receive a copy of all communication with their child/ward. If email communication is required, a parent/guardian will be copied into the message.

TRANSPORTATION OF ATHLETES

Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting their children/wards to and from WRAS activities. Where WRAS makes arrangements for the transportation of children (eg for away training or overnight trips), WRAS will conduct a risk assessment to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place.

WRAS does not recommend staff or volunteers transport athletes to any WRAS events. If for any reason a staff member or volunteer is transporting an athlete or athletes to a WRAS event, they must have written approval from the athlete's parent/guardian and the WRAS office beforehand.

IMAGES OF CHILDREN

WRAS will obtain approval from parents/guardians before taking/using images of their child/ward. Images of children will not be used inappropriately or illegally. WRAS will only use images of children that are relevant to WRAS activities and will ensure that the child is suitable clothed in a manner than promotes WRAS.

WRAS requires the privacy of others to be respected and disallow the use of mobile phones, videos and cameras in rooms where athletes are dressing or inside changing areas, showers and toilets, etc.

COMPLAINTS

WRAS will take all complaints seriously and handle them based on the principles of procedural fairness. The Complaint Handling Process is included in the WRAS [Member Protection Policy](#).

Authorised by: WRAS Executive Officer	Title: Child Safety	Page: 2
Version Date: September 2022	Next Review: September 2023	No of Pages: 3

PEOPLE YOU CAN TALK TO IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS

- Your parents/guardians or another trusted family member.
- WRAS office staff – office phone 6338 4821, main email info@wras.org.au
Executive Officer (Candice Boggs) – cboggs@csu.edu.au
Programs and Strength and Conditioning Manager (Dan Bunyan) – dbunyan@csu.edu.au
Office Manager (Tanya Pallier) – tpallier@csu.edu.au
- Squad staff (coaches or squad manager) – contact details are included on your WRAS program.
- Member Protection Information Officer – mpio@wras.org.au – independent from WRAS
- Sports Chaplain – chaplain@wras.org.au – independent from WRAS
- WRAS Board of Management – chair@wras.org.au

The Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) can provide impartial information about WRAS policies, processes and procedures. The MPIO can make contact with the appropriate person/organisation to resolve any concern or complaint and pass on pertinent information.

IF YOU NEED HELP

If you or someone you know is in danger or needs immediate medical attention - please call **000**

Kids Help Line – anytime, any reason

Phone – **1800 55 1800** – the fastest way to talk with someone

Webchat available 24/7 - <https://kidshelpline.com.au/get-help/webchat-counselling/>

Email (checked between 8am to 10pm daily) – counsellor@kidshelpline.com.au

Lifeline – **13 11 14** – 24/7 crisis support

Headspace – Mental health support for 12 to 25 year olds.

If it's not an emergency, click [here](#) to go to headspace website and find your nearest centre to speak to one of their counsellors.

Authorised by: WRAS Executive Officer	Title: Child Safety	Page: 3
Version Date: September 2022	Next Review: September 2023	No of Pages: 3