



Castlemaine Rocky Riders

Child Safe Policy

Written By: Steven Warren
Approved By: Emma Gordon, Natalya Garden
Endorsed By: Castlemaine Rocky Riders Committee
Date for Review: September 2024
Pages: 4

Purpose

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the committee and volunteers of the Castlemaine Rocky Riders (CRR) to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and practices the Club has developed to keep everyone safe from any harm, including abuse.

Commitment to Child Safety

All children who are a part of CRR have a right to feel and be safe. The welfare of the children in our care will always be our priority and CRR has a zero tolerance to child abuse. CRR aims to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and have fun and CRR activities are always carried out in the best interests of the children.

Child Safe Statement of Commitment:

The club is committed to including children in our social rides, races, events, and skills and development programs

- The club values the inclusion of all children and their families and carers in our activities
- The club promotes inclusion, diversity and equality by welcoming members and spectators of all ages, genders, sexual orientation and identity, cultural backgrounds, and abilities
- Mountain bike riding is a community-based sport which can provide recreational and career pathways. We aim to foster opportunities for children to participate in our club and beyond
- The club is committed to ongoing development and promotion of child safety standards through its policies, recruitment process, induction of committee members and volunteers, ongoing training and education to committee members and volunteers.



Application of this Policy

This policy was developed by CRR and in collaboration with the committee and the children who ride with our club and their parents.

This policy applies to all individuals involved in our organisation including, but not limited to:

- Committee members
- Coaches/Instructors
- Ride Leaders
- Event Volunteers
- Members
- Parents
- Spectators

All of the people to which this policy applies have a role and responsibility in relation to child protection. They must all:

- understand the indicators and risks of child abuse;
- appropriately act on any concerns raised by children; and
- understand and follow all applicable laws in relation to the protection of children and reporting or management of child safety concerns.

Child Abuse

Child abuse can take a broad range of forms including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse and neglect. People to whom this policy applies need to be aware that child abuse can occur whenever there is actual or potential harm to a child, and these are circumstances that CRR is committed to reducing the risk of occurrence.

Children's Rights to Safety and Participation

Rocky Riders encourages children to express their views about their safety. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all children who use our services to 'have a say' about things that are important to them.

We teach children about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns children, or their parents, raise with us.

Valuing Diversity

We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices. To achieve this, we:

- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children and their families;
- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and their families;
- welcome children with a disability and their families and act to promote their participation



Committee members and volunteers

CRR takes the following steps to ensure best practice standards in the recruitment and screening of committee members and volunteers:

- Require Working with Children Checks for relevant positions
- Require the completion of on-line training modules for Child Safeguarding and attending any child safety training provided
- Our commitment to Child Safety and our screening requirements are part of the induction process for new committee or volunteers.
- Our commitment to Child Safety and our screening requirements is available for all volunteers
- Adhere to AusCycling's Coach and Instructor Code of Behaviour (for those it applies to)

Supporting committee members and volunteers

CRR seeks to attract and retain the best committee members and volunteers. We provide support and supervision so people feel valued, respected and fairly treated. We have developed a Code of Conduct to provide guidance to our members and volunteers.

Reporting a child safety concern or complaint

The CRR Child Safety Contact is Emma Gordon. This role has responsibility for responding to any allegations or concerns made by members, volunteers, parents or children. Our process for responding to child abuse allegations is outlined in the CRR Child Safe Code of Conduct.

Child Safety Contact email address: rockyriderssafety@gmail.com

Risk Management

We recognise the importance of a risk management approach to minimising the potential for child abuse or harm to occur and use this to inform our policy, procedures and activity planning. The club is committed to ongoing development and promotion of child safety standards through its policies, recruitment process, induction of committee members and volunteers, ongoing training and education to committee members and volunteers.

In addition to general occupational health and safety risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse to our children.

To reduce the risk of child abuse occurring, adults to whom this policy applies should avoid direct, unsupervised contact with children. For example, this should be a consideration when:

- using change room facilities;
- travel; or
- physical contact when coaching or managing children
- Maintaining AusCycling's recommended ride leader ratio 1:8 ratio (leader/coach to riders). There must be more minimum of three riders when working with under 18 year olds
- Secure storage of child members information as outlined in CRR Information Privacy Policy
- Not disclosing personal information about children on our website and social media platforms (outlined in CRR Social Media Policy)



- Seeking consent to take photographs of children and informing parents/carers how we intend to use photographs (outlined in CRR photography policy)
- Encouraging the participation of parents and carers at social rides, skills sessions and events
- Communication regarding a child must be directed through parents, this includes email, social media and other electronic programs/applications (outlined in CRR communication Policy)
- Screening and recruiting volunteers and committee members who meet the requirements specified in CRR Child Safe Code of Conduct

Reviewing this policy

This policy will be reviewed every two years and we undertake to seek views, comments and suggestions from children, parents, carers, staff and volunteers involved in CRR.

THIS DOCUMENT WAS DEVELOPED UTILISING AND ADAPTING CONTENT FROM:

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS (VICTORIA) 2022

Related Documents

- CRR Child Safe Code of Conduct
- CRR Information Privacy Policy
- CRR Social Media Policy
- CRR photography policy