



Waikato Water Polo Club

P009 - Child Protection Policy

Document Status	Released by	Sign
Final	Dayne Hawkes	signed on original

Commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Waikato Water Polo Club Inc. recognises Te Tiriti o Waitangi as Aotearoa New Zealand's founding document. Waikato Water Polo Club Inc is committed to upholding the mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the principles of Partnership, Protection and Participation.

Terms

“Member” shall include any member as defined by the Waikato Water Polo Club Inc Constitution

“Administrator” shall include any person who is in an elected or appointed administrative capacity, whether paid or a volunteer.

“Friend of the committee” shall include any person so determined by the club committee.

“Officer” includes all persons who volunteered to be on the club committee.

“Elected Officer” includes the three roles which are elected at the Annual General Meeting: **Chairperson, Treasurer, and Club Secretary.**

“WWP” means Waikato Water Polo Club Inc

Constitution statement

Nothing in this document should be in contravention of the Waikato Water Polo Club Inc Club Constitution, however when a conflict of instructions arises, the constitution shall be followed over this document.

Introduction

Waikato Water Polo along with its Coaches, Managers, event partners, and technical officials have a responsibility to ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are established to safeguard all children and its members from any threat of or form of abuse or harassment while participating in any aspect of our sport.

For the purpose of this policy children are defined as under 18 years of age.

The responsibility for safeguarding athletes, children and young people lies with all adults who play a role in their lives. This refers to all who work directly and indirectly with children, including those responsible for the administration and coordinating of the water polo environment.

Waikato Water Polo Club aims to foster an environment within the sport that ensures the safety and wellbeing of all members. An awareness of this Child Protection Policy amongst all involved with children and young people in water polo also assists in reducing risk to clubs, coaches, officials, volunteers, and parents/supporters.


Adults should at all times establish and maintain appropriate professional boundaries in their relationships with athletes.

Good Practice Guidelines

The safety and wellbeing of children/young people must be paramount at all times; therefore, New Zealand Water Polo have compiled a list of what good practice amongst coaches, officials, event providers and clubs means

1. Any physical contact with athletes should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the athlete's skill development.
2. Working in an open environment avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication.
3. At camps or 'away/out of town' sessions, adults should never enter children's rooms or invite children/young people into their room (other than the child's parents/caregivers) in the absence of other children.
4. Securing parental consent in writing to act in loco parentis if the need arises to administer emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment.
5. Where a coach believes it is necessary to touch an athlete in order to correct technique, it is important that they:
 - a. Consult with the parent/caregiver first if present; and/or
 - b. Ensure the child is made aware of the purpose of the contact and gives consent; and/or
 - c. Consider the appropriateness of the ways in which technique is corrected involving touch.

All coaches, clubs, event partners, volunteers and technical officials must ensure:

1. They never take, or are in the presence of, children/young people in secluded places where they will be alone, irrespective of gender.
 2. Wherever possible should not share a room with a child other than their own.
 3. They never deliberately reduce a child/young person to tears as a form of control.
 4. They never deliberately do something to make someone feel diminished or embarrassed.
 5. They never use inappropriate language or allow other children to use inappropriate language unchallenged (e.g. swearing, name calling/put downs, sarcasm, innuendo, sexualised connotations, culturally or racially offensive comments).
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6. They never leave a training venue before all athletes have been collected or are continuing to be supervised by appropriate adults.
7. They never cause an athlete to lose self-esteem by embarrassing, humiliating, or undermining the individual.
8. They never yell or shout at athletes as a reprimand or in response to anger.
9. They never make sexually suggestive comments or actions to, or in the vicinity of a child/young person, even in fun.
10. They never engage in rough, physically, or sexually provocative games; and
11. They never engage in, or allow unchallenged, any form of abuse or sexual harassment as described in this Policy.



Change Log		
Date	Changes made	By
17/04/25	Initial Draft	Dayne Hawkes