

Child Protection Policy and Procedure

This Child Protection Policy and Procedure provides general guidance and is intended to inform a Parent or Guardian who is accompanying a Child on a Club Event, Club Members and Event Leaders of Brisbane Catholic Bushwalking Club of the requirements and protocols for allowing a child to participate in a Club Event.

The Club is committed to ensuring that the safety, welfare, and well-being of children is maintained at all times during their participation in Events run by the Club. A child is a person under the age of 18 years.

Brisbane Catholic Bushwalking Club welcomes the participation of children in Club events:

- with the consent of the Event Leader, and
- who are accompanied by a parent or guardian who has completed Acknowledgement of Risk and Obligations of Temporary Members (Visitors) Form.

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURE

1. It is the Parent or Guardian's responsibility to ensure that the child is capable of completing the event. (See the Website www.bcbc.bwq.org.au for Guidelines on Walk Ratings, Safety, and Essential Equipment).
2. Children's attendance at Club events is to be considered a privilege and not a right.
3. Children can attend events ONLY if the Event Leader has been contacted BEFORE the event and permission requested and granted. Without prior permission from the Event Leader, they WILL NOT be allowed to participate.
4. No Event Leader is required to accept a child at an event and no reason needs to be given.
5. The Parent or Guardian must complete and sign the Acknowledgement of Risk and Obligations of Temporary Members (Visitors) Form and present it to the Event Leader prior to the commencement of the event. This signifies the Parent or Guardian has understood the Risks and Obligations and agrees to accept them.
6. The signed Acknowledgement of Risk and Obligations of Temporary Members (Visitors) Form must be returned with all walk forms to the Outings Secretary as soon as possible.
7. All forms connected with the participation of children must be kept until the child's twenty-first birthday and cannot be disposed of prior to this date. This can be an electronic media copy.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

- a. Children are welcome on an event with permission from the Event Leader, but the child/children must be supervised by the parent or guardian at all times.

- b. No other participant may offer or accept responsibility for supervising the child other than the parent or guardian who brought them.
- c. The Parent or Guardian bringing the child is expected to maintain an appropriate standard of behaviour from the child and not allow them to interfere with the enjoyment of the event by other participants. The child must accept any directions from the event leader during the event.
- d. Physical contact with the child by other participants should be avoided except if it is necessary to restrain or protect them in the event of possible harm or to provide First Aid.
- e. If either the Child or the Parent or Guardian are injured and require treatment, they must stay together. If this is not possible, the Parent or Guardian, or a representative of the Emergency Service must appoint an alternative Adult to be responsible for the child.
- f. In the event the Parent or Guardian is unable to appoint an alternative Adult, the Event Leader will appoint an alternative Adult to be responsible for the child until a representative of the Emergency Service is present.
- g. If any member has any concerns or questions about a child's safety, neglect or abuse issues, they should speak to the Club's designated Child Protection Officer.

Our Club will respond to concerns in accordance with the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000 (Qld).

Concerns can also be reported by phone to the Child Safety Services (Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs). If a child is in immediate danger contact QLD Police 000.

This Child Protection Policy and Procedure will be reviewed periodically and updated in line with any legislative changes that have significant impact on the way in which child protection issues are to be dealt with.

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