



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

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WA SPEEDWAY COMMISSION INC

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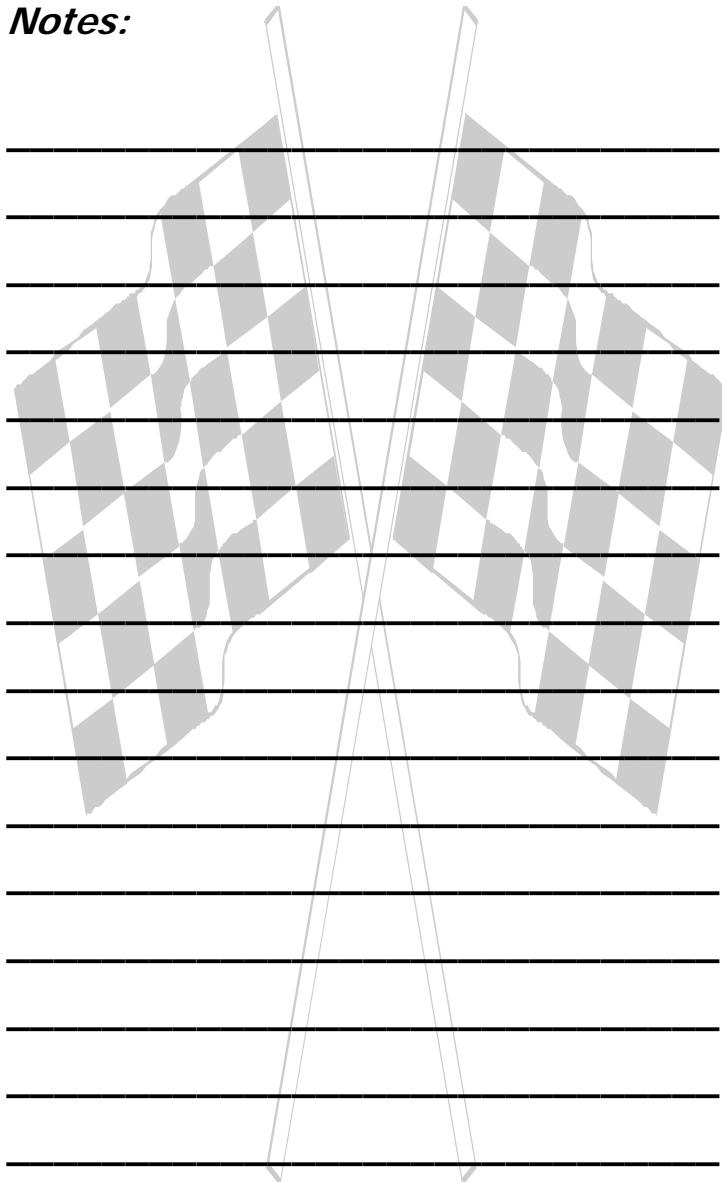
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INTRODUCTION

Notes:



A series of horizontal lines for taking notes, overlaid with a faint image of two checkered racing flags on poles.

The WA Speedway Commission as directed by the WA State Government's Department of Sport & Recreation has been required to create and implement various policies to aid in the protection of their affiliates, their members and the members of those clubs / associations which are affiliated to the WA Speedway Commission.

This document is the Child Protection Policy which has been designed for use by our affiliates with the assistance of the WA Speedway Commission should the clubs / associations wish to delegate this role to the WA Speedway Commission.



The document covers the Child Protection Policy details including the format for the screening procedures and the appropriate paperwork which is needed in this case. A copy of these Forms are attached to this policy document and can be obtained from the Commission office.

This policy as stated in the outline will be reviewed on a periodical basis or as directed by the Department of Sport & Recreation.

Why Adopt a Policy?

By adopting a policy, the WA Speedway Commission is conveying a message that the protection of our youths is important and any misconduct under this policy will not be tolerated within our sport, also assuring those youths who have experienced harassment that their complaints will be dealt with fairly and in the correct manner.

Acknowledgements

The WA Speedway Commission wishes to thank the Department of Sport & Recreation for the assistance in creating this policy and the WASC Sport Development Advisory Committee who worked on the finer details to make the policy suitable for our sport.

Policy Definitions & Impact

A child or youth is defined as someone under the age of 18 years.

Child Sexual Maltreatment

- ⇒ Is a criminal offence.
- ⇒ Occurs when a child has been exposed to, or subjected to, sexual behaviours or acts which are exploitative and/or inappropriate to his or her developmental level.
- ⇒ Involves a wide range of sexual activities which exploit children and includes forcing, tricking, bribing, threatening or pressuring a child into sexual activity.

Resultant Harm to the Child

- ⇒ Includes significant emotional trauma, physical injury or impaired development, although harm may not always be easily identifiable.

In some cases a fine line exists between what is and what is not sexual maltreatment. In these cases careful consideration of the contextual element of the power relationship is essential including the respective ages and developmental levels of those involved and the nature of the relationship.

Appropriate Screening Forms:

- **Notes about the Confidential Declaration**
- **Confidential Declaration Form**

These above forms are attached to this Policy, for further copies of the forms please contact the WA Speedway Commission office or your club can transfer these forms onto your own letterhead.

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURE

4. Screening an Applicant

The WA Speedway Commission and its affiliate clubs can implement a series of steps to ensure that the person it is appointing to a position is of sound character. Screening does not merely relate to obtaining a police clearance but it includes the following preventative actions:

- **Use Accredited Officials / Stewards.**

In the case of speedway clubs/ associations, it is recommended that only accredited Officials / Stewards are used to minimise their risk of employing (volunteers) unsuitable persons. *The WA Speedway Commission trains and accredits Officials and Stewards, also recognising the WA Saloon Car Federations training courses for Officials / Stewards.*

- **Confidential Declaration Form.**

A Club / Association may choose to use this form of screening for persons who volunteer their services to the club / association. The form is an indication to the speedway fraternity that the club / association has undertaken preventative child protection measures.

Policy Definitions & impact cont...

Child Protection Legislation

The protection of children from abuse and neglect is legally the responsibility of both the Family and Children's Services and the Police Departments, under the:

Child Welfare Act 1947

Community Services Act 1972

The key responsibilities of these agencies include reporting and investigating cases of child abuse and providing for the protection of victims. However, "all individuals and organizations which have regular contact with children, including families, have a responsibility for the welfare of those children. The responsibility cannot be confined to those organizations with specific legislative obligations for their care and protection". (The Wood Royal Commission, 1997).

Unlike New South Wales, Western Australia does not have mandatory reporting legislation. Therefore, deliverers of Sport & Recreation services are not compelled to advise on suspected cases of child sexual maltreatment. However, in the best interest of the child concerned and within a 'DUTY OF CARE' suspected cases should be directed to Family and Children's Services.

Family and Children's Services

Criminal Record Screening Unit

Ph: (08) 9222 2555

Fax: (08) 9222 2776

Website: www.fes.wa.gov.au

Police Service of Western Australia

Child Abuse Unit

Ph: (09) 9492 5444

Suspect Abuse

You have suspicion on reasonable grounds:

- When a youth tells you they have been abused;
- When someone else tells you a youth has been abused;
- A youth tells you they know someone who has been abused (often they are referring to themselves);
- You observe a youth member's behaviour and/or injuries etc. and your knowledge of youth members, leads you to suspect abuse; and/or
- You observe a member's abuse of another member.

What to do

If you suspect a child has been abused follow these procedures:

- ⇒ Ensure the youth is safe (if they are in your care);
- ⇒ Maintain the safety of other youth members in accordance with the Code of Conduct;
- ⇒ Obtain and if possible document the following:
 - The youth's name, age and address;
 - Your reason for suspecting abuse (i.e. observation, injury, information);

4. Rights & Responsibilities cont...

Members cont...:

Are Responsible For:

- Maintaining confidentiality about sensitive information as designated by the appropriate authority.

WA Speedway Commission & Its Affiliate Clubs / Associations:

Has the Right To:

- Expect all members to comply with its Code of Conduct;
- Expect all youth members to maintain standards of reasonable behaviour;
- Take appropriate action if members breach the Code of Conduct or the WA Speedway Commission and its affiliates policy. Expect all members to undertake appropriate training when advise to;
- Expect all members not to abuse members physically, sexually and emotionally;
- Take appropriate action in the event of accusations;

Are Responsible For:

- Providing a safe environment for members;
- Providing ongoing training and information for members. Wide promotion of this Policy and Procedures;
- Facilitating open discussion on Child Protection issues;
- Provide support to members who report accusations of abuse;
- Treating suspected abuse information confidentially;
- Taking appropriate action if members breach standards of reasonable behaviour or policies and regulations.

4. Rights & responsibilities cont...

The WA Speedway Commission and its affiliates member's, both youth and adult, reserve certain rights as members and carry with them certain responsibilities. These should be state within this policy.

Members:

Have the Right To:

- Access to ongoing training and information on all aspects of leading / managing activities for youths, particularly member protection;
- Support in the reporting of suspected abuse;
- Access to professional support services;
- Be protected from abuse by youths, other adult members and parent.

Are Responsible For:

- Using appropriate behaviour when in the control of youths;
- Responding to youths members' statements concerns about alleged abuse;
- Ensuring the rights and responsibilities of youth members are enforced;
- Reporting suspected abuse to the appropriate authorities;
- Not abusing members physically, sexually or emotionally;

Suspect Abuse cont...

What to do

- ⇒ Obtain and document the following:
 - Your assessment of danger posed to the youth including information pertaining to the alleged perpetrator;
 - What arrangements, if any, exist for the immediate protection of the youth;
 - What involvement, if any, other agencies have in dealing with the suspected member protection issues.
- ⇒ Make direct and confidential contact with a member of your club's executive committee or the WA Speedway Commission's, Board of Commissioners.
- ⇒ Consult with them on how to proceed and to make a formal report;
- ⇒ Anonymous claims of abuse or breaches of the Code and policies are to be taken seriously and immediately reported to the Chief Executive or appointed person for investigation.

Options for Further Action

- ⇒ The suspected victim and other family members may be asked to approach their local GP to obtain a referral to professional support services and medical specialists;
- ⇒ Report the matter to the Child Abuse Unit (WA Police Service);
- ⇒ Report the matter to Family and Children's Services;
- ⇒ Raise the suspension and/or cancel the perpetrator's membership.

The above list are suggested actions only, your club / association should insert appropriate protocols to suits its specific requirements.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

1. Policy Statement

- i. The WA Speedway Commission and its affiliates are committed to providing an environment that is safe for participation in the sport of speedway. The WA Speedway Commission and its affiliates will not abide in the criminal act of child sexual maltreatment, which occurs when a child has been exposed or subjected to sexual behaviours or acts which are exploitative and/or inappropriate to his or her developmental level. Such behaviour involves a wide range of sexual activities which exploit children and includes forcing, tricking, bribing, threatening or pressuring a child into sexual activity.

- ii. This Child Protection Policy conveys a message to all members and prospective members, responsible for speedway activities, particularly those involving members under 18 years of age, about minimising risk exposure. Managers, officials, stewards, leaders, club members and executives, have a responsibility to provide safe guards dedicated to the well being of those under the age of 18 years (youth).

4. Rights & Responsibilities

The WA Speedway Commission and its affiliates member's, both youth and adult, reserve certain rights as members and carry with them certain responsibilities. These should be stated within this policy.

Youths:

Have the Right To:

- To be safe;
- To be listened to;
- To be respected;
- To privacy;
- To take calculated risks in a protective environment;
- To an inclusive environment;
- To be referred to professional help if needed;
- To be protected from abuse by other members or outside sources.

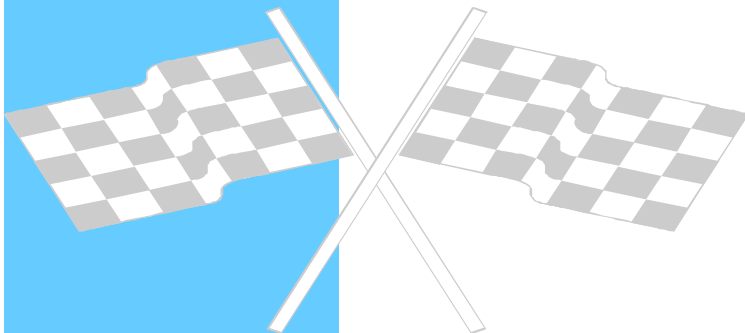
Are Responsible for:

- Showing respect to both youth and adult members;
- Keeping themselves safe;
- Accurately reporting inappropriate behaviour or risky situation for youth members.

3. **Safeguards cont...**

- i. Do not engage, or allow others to engage, in any of the following:
 - Abusive initiation ceremonies;
 - Aggressive, physically distressing or sexually suggestive comments about or to a youth;
 - Sexually suggestive comments about or to a youth;
 - Inappropriate or intrusive toughing of a youth.
- ii. Maintain an open door policy when conducting briefings, meetings and assemblies of members. Invite all youths, parents, pit crews and other club members to participate, particularly when performing driver's briefings or when explaining an Officials / Stewards decision.

This list of risk minimization strategies is not exhaustive but is designed to be a guide on which your club / association can build.



1. **Policy Statement cont...**

- iii. The abuse of youth members, by other members or external source, is not acceptable and the WA Speedway Commission and its affiliates encourages all incidents of such abuse as described above to be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities.

2. **Code of Conduct**

- iv. The WA Speedway Commission and its affiliates endorses the following Code of Conduct for those responsible for activities involving person under the age of 18 years.

As a member you should meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during speedway activities.

Management & Executives of Clubs / Associations:

- Agree to abide by the Code of Conduct;
- Be responsible for the overall welfare and well-being of youth members and officials at all club / association events;
- Maintain a 'Duty of Care' towards youth members and an accountability for the management of those members;

Officials / Stewards & Leaders:

- Agree to abide by the Code of Conduct;
- Be responsible for matters concerning the training and development of their knowledge to the racing rules and regulations;
- Maintain a 'Duty of Care' towards others and an accountability for matters relating to training and competition;
- Ensure that any physical contact with others is:
 - a) Appropriate to the situation;
 - b) Necessary for the persons skill development;

2. Code of Conduct cont...

As a member you should meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during speedway activities.

Officials / Stewards & Leaders cont..

- Provide a safe environment for training and competition.
- Avoid the use of derogatory language on gender or race towards any person.

Competitors:

- Agree to abide by the Code of Conduct;
- Control your temper. Verbal and physical abuse of Stewards or other competitors and deliberately distracting or provoking others is not acceptable or permissible behavior;
- Treat all competitors as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully, or take advantage of any other participant;
- Avoid the use of coarse or derogatory language.

Club Members:

- Agree to abide by the Code of Conduct;
- Maintain a 'Duty of Care' towards youth members and an accountability for the management of those members;

2. Code of Conduct cont...

Parents:

- Encourage children to participate, if they are interested. Do not force any child who is not willing to participate.
- Focus upon the child's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event.
- Assist the child to set realistic goals based on their ability.
- Teach children that an honest effort is as important as victory, so that the result of each meeting is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Encourage children to follow the rules and any Officials / Stewards decision.
- Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a competition. Positive comments are motivational.
- Remember children are involved in speedway for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Children learn best from example. Applaud good performance by all competitors.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from speedway activities.
- Demonstrate appropriate social behavior by not using foul or derogatory language.

3. Safeguards

The safeguards following apply to those members who undertake the delivery or supervision of youths in our sport in their capacity as managers, officials, stewards, leaders and administrators.

These are responsible positions in the organization and as such must adopt the following risk minimization measures to protect themselves from any misconceptions about their behaviour in performing their designated roles.