



RAIEBURN CALISTHENICS INC

Child Safe Policy

Purpose

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the coaches, committee and volunteers of **Raieburn Calisthenics Inc (the Club)** 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.

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

Application of this Policy

This policy was developed by the Club and in collaboration with coaches, our committee and the children who use our services and their parents.

This policy applies to all individuals involved in our organisation (e.g.: paid and volunteer) including, but not limited to:

Administrators

Coaches (and all additional support coaching staff)

Officials

Participants

Parents / Guardians / Carers

Spectators

All 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

Understand and follow all applicable laws in relation to the protection of children and reporting or management of child safety concerns.

Understand it is unlawful to fail to disclose or protect a child at risk

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 the Club is committed to reducing the risk of occurrence.

Children's Rights to Safety and Participation

The Club 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 concern's children, or their parents, raise with us.

Discussions are held during 'chat' times at class; to enable students to feel they have an avenue for opening up, or that they are able to talk to their coach / assistant in private if necessary.

Valuing Diversity

We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices. To achieve this, we: Promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of all First Nation 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

Seek appropriate staff from diverse cultural backgrounds

Recruiting coaches and volunteers

The Club takes the following steps to ensure best practice standards in the recruitment and screening of staff and volunteers:

Interview and conduct referee checks on all new coaches and volunteers

Require Working with Children Checks for relevant positions

Our commitment to Child Safety and our screening requirements are included in all advertisement and as part of the induction process for new coaches or volunteers.

Supporting coaches and volunteers

The Club seeks to attract and retain the best coaches 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 coaches and volunteers, all of whom receive training on the requirements of the Code.

Reporting a child safety concern or complaint

The Club has appointed *Vickie Ryan* as a Child Safety Person with the specific responsibility for responding to any complains made by staff, volunteers, parents or children. That person can be contacted by personal email at davall@bigpond.com.au or via personal mobile 0408 537 516. Our complaints process is outlined in our *Compliments and Complaints Policy*

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. 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

Using accommodation or overnight stays

Travel

Physical contact when coaching or managing children

REVIEWING THIS POLICY

This Policy will be reviewed every two years, and we undertake to seek views, comments and suggestions from children, parents, carers, coaches and volunteers involved in the Club.

LAST REVIEWED July 2024

*This document was developed utilising and adapting content from:
The Commission for Children and Young People (2016), Child Safe Policy*