

The Western Australian Darts Council Inc



POLICY ON CHILD PROTECTION

POLICY 1.8

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1.0 Policy Statement

- 1.0.1 The Western Australian Darts Council Inc is committed to providing an environment that is safe while participating in the Sport of Darts.
The Western Australian Darts Council Inc will not abide in the criminal act of child sexual maltreatment, which occurs when a child (defined as a person under the age of 18 years) has been exposed or subjected to sexual behaviours or acts that are exploitative and/or inappropriate to his/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.
- 1.0.2 This Child Protection Policy conveys a message to all members and prospective members responsible for people under the age of 18 years in the Sport of Darts about minimising risk exposure.
Managers, coaches, officials and management personnel have a responsibility to provide safeguards dedicated to the wellbeing of those under the age of 18 years (youth).
- 1.0.3 The abuse of youth members, by other members or external source is not acceptable and the Western Australian Darts Council Inc encourages all incidents to be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities.

2.0 Code of Conduct

- 2.0.1 The Western Australian Darts Council Inc endorses the following Code of Conduct for those persons responsible for activities involving those under the age of 18 years.
- Persons within the Western Australian Darts Council Inc must identify any case of abuse.
 - Any person with a duty of care over children must obtain a Police clearance.
 - Ensure all members are aware of this Child Protection Policy
 - It is essential that members are made aware of and if possible have input, into the strategies the WADC intends to establish when dealing with this issue.
 - Ensure all persons, who either directly or indirectly are responsible for the care of children, are provided with knowledge of how to identify signs of sexual maltreatment and know the appropriate actions to follow.
- 2.0.2 A Manager will:
- Agree to abide by the Western Australian Darts Council Inc Code of Conduct.
 - Be responsible for the overall welfare and wellbeing of team members and officials when travelling with a team.
 - Maintain a duty of care towards team members and accountability for the management of the team.
- 2.0.3 A Coach will:
- Agree to abide by Western Australian Dart Council Inc the Code of Conduct.
 - Be responsible for matters concerning the coaching, teaching and development.
 - Maintain a duty of care towards others and accountability for matters relating to teaching and competition.
 - Ensure that any physical contact with others is:
 - I. Appropriate to the situation
 - II. Necessary for the person's skill development.
 - Provide a safe environment for teaching and competition
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2.0.4 An Official/Administrator will

- Agree to abide by the Western Australian Darts Council Inc Code of Conduct.
- Be fair, considerate and honest with others.
- Operate within the rules of the Western Australian Darts Council Inc.
- Be professional in actions. Language, presentation, manner and punctuality should reflect high standards.
- Resolve conflicts fairly and promptly through established procedures.
- Maintain strict impartiality.
- Maintain a safe environment for others.
- Show concern and caution towards others.

3.0 Safeguards

The safeguards below apply to those members who undertake the supervision of youth activities in their capacity as managers, coaches, officials, administrators, etc.

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

3.0.1 Do not engage or allow others to engage in the following:

- Abusive initiation ceremonies.
- Sleeping in closed quarters with youths without a second adult representative, parent, etc.
- Aggressive physically distressing or sexually provocative activities.
- Sexually suggestive comments about or to a youth.
- Inappropriate or intrusive touching of a youth.
- Minimise the situations where an adult may be alone with a single child.

3.0.2 Maintain an open door policy, when conducting briefings, meetings, and assemblies of members. Invite all youths, parents, friends and other leaders to participate, particularly when performing interviews, transporting youth members and conducting excursions.

3.0.3 Male and female adults or parents must accompany youths when undertaking activities away from home and especially overnight.

4.0 Child Sexual Maltreatment

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 development levels of those involved and the nature of the relationship.

- Child sexual maltreatment is a criminal offence.
 - Occurs when a child has been exposed to or subjected to, sexual behaviours or acts which exploitative and/or inappropriate to his/her development level.
 - Involves a wide range of sexual activities that exploit children and includes forcing, tricking, bribing, threatening or pressuring a child into sexual activity.
 - Resultant harm to the child includes significant trauma, physical injury or impaired development, although harm may not always be easily identifiable.
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5.0 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 and the 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 organisations, which have regular contact with children, including families, have a responsibility for the welfare of those children. The responsibility cannot be confined to those organisations with specific legislative obligations for their care and protection.

Unlike New South Wales, Western Australia does not have mandatory reporting legislation. Therefore deliverers of sport and recreation services are not compelled to advise on suspected cases of child sexual maltreatment. However in the best interests of the child concerned and within a 'duty of care' suspected cases should be directed to Family and Children's Services

6.0 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 your members leads you to suspect abuse.
- You observe a member's abuse of another member.

If you suspect a youth 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 document the following:

- The youth's name, age and address.
- Your reasons for suspecting abuse (i.e. observation, injury, and information).
- Your assessment of danger posed to the youth including information pertaining to the alleged perpetrator.
- What arrangements, if any, exist for the immediate protection off the youth.
- What involvement, if any, other agencies have in dealing with the suspected member protection issues.
- Anonymous claims of abuse or breaches of the above Code of Conduct and Policies are to be taken seriously and immediately reported to the Board of Management 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).
- Notify the Board of Management so as a suspension and/or cancel the perpetrator's membership may be imposed.

It is important to note that there are occasions where the Child Abuser Unit need to be called in as soon as possible in order that evidence is not tainted, accused are not tipped off and stories corroborated, etc. before the police arrive.

7.0 Rights and Responsibilities

The Western Australian Darts Council Inc members, 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 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.

Youths are responsible for:

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

Members have the right to:

- Access to ongoing teaching 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 parents.

Members are responsible for:

- Fostering teamwork to ensure the safety of youth members in their care.
- Using appropriate team management behaviour.
- Responding to youth members' statements and concerns about alleged abuse.
- Ensuring the rights and responsibilities of youth members are enforced.
- Reporting suspected abuse to the appropriate authority.
- Not abusing members physically, emotionally or sexually.
- Maintaining confidentiality about sensitive information as designated by the appropriate authority.

The Western Australian Darts Council Inc 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 Council policy and procedures.
- Expect all members not to abuse members physically, emotionally or sexually.
- Take the appropriate action in the event of accusations.
- Acquire Police checks relating to convictions in relevant areas.

The Western Australian Darts Council Inc is responsible for:

- Providing a safe environment for members.
 - Providing ongoing information to members and 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.
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