



Child Safety Policy

REV1 MAR14

Introduction

This Child Safety Policy is intended to provide guidelines as to the correct procedures for maximising the safety of children entering Rogaining events in Queensland. There are a number of potential risks involved in participating in a rogaining event and we hope that by following the procedures, organisers and participants can mitigate these risks so any unforeseen circumstances do not result in endangering a child.

Aim

QRA encourages child participants in the sport. It is a great way for children to have fun, develop new skills and stay active and be healthy. As an organisation we must provide a safe environment for children to participate so that they are not put at undue risk at any time during an event.

The policy aims to:

- Educate adults of their duty of care toward children when participating in rogaining events
- Ensure that parents, guardians and adult members of rogaining teams that include children understand their responsibilities

Definition

Children – Any person under the age of 14 years at the time of the event

Youth – Any person between the age of 14 years and 18 years at the time of the event

Adult – Any person older than 18 years at the time of the event

Processes

All participants who enter an event with children should be familiar with the procedures surrounding the safety of children under their care and take responsibility for the safety of those children during the event. The following procedures are recommended to assist in this process:

- All children must be accompanied by an adult during an event.
- The on-line event entry page must state that an adult must accompany a child during the event.
- A paragraph should be included in the final instructions which are sent out to all entrants stating “Should child/ren be entered in your team that all adult members of the team have a duty of care to those child/ren and they are to remain in sight of the child/ren at all times during the event.”
- During the final briefing, it should be emphasised that adults have a duty of care to any children in their team and they must demonstrate that they are in their sight at all times, e.g. children are not to be left alone on a trail whilst the adult team member searches in the bush for a checkpoint.
- Adults are to ensure that children have sufficient fluid intake during an event. Children may not be able to identify with the first signs of dehydration.
- Should another participating team see a child in distress they must assist wherever practical. If the rendering of such assistance cause more than an incidental loss of time appropriate credit for such lost time will be provided.
- Any incidents involving risks to children should be reported to the event organiser and the QRA Committee for review.