

Child Safety & Member Protection

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Policy Owner	Club President
Approved By	[Pending Committee Approval]
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Next Review	[12 months from approval date]

1. Purpose

Belconnen Ramblers Basketball Club is committed to the safety, wellbeing, and protection of all children and young people involved in our programs. This policy sets out our obligations and procedures to ensure every child participates in a safe environment free from abuse, harm, and exploitation.

This is one of the most important policies of our club. Every volunteer, coach, team manager, and committee member must read and comply with this policy.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Ramblers members, volunteers, coaches, team managers, committee members, and anyone else working with or having contact with children through club activities.

3. Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) Requirements

In the ACT, anyone who works or volunteers with children must hold a current Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) registration under the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011 (ACT).

3.1 Who Requires a WWVP Check

- All coaches and assistant coaches
- All team managers and assistant team managers
- All committee members who work directly with juniors
- Any volunteer who has unsupervised access to children through club activities

3.2 Process

- Obtain a WWVP registration through the ACT Government at: www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au

- Provide evidence of a current WWVP registration to the Club Secretary before working with children
- Notify the Club Secretary immediately if your WWVP registration is suspended, cancelled, or conditions change
- Renew your WWVP registration as required and provide updated evidence to the club

The club will not permit any person to work with junior players without a current WWVP registration. No exceptions.

4. Safe Environment Principles

4.1 One-on-One Interactions

Where possible, avoid being alone with a child. Where one-on-one interaction is necessary:

- Ensure the interaction is in a visible and open location
- Inform another adult of the interaction
- Do not conduct private one-on-one messaging or contact with children

4.2 Physical Contact

- Physical contact with children must only occur in the context of skill instruction, first aid, or emergency situations
- All physical contact must be appropriate, necessary, and respectful
- Never use physical contact as punishment

4.3 Photography and Filming

- Do not photograph or film children at club activities without prior consent from parents or guardians
- Images and videos of children must not be posted on social media or shared publicly without explicit parental consent (refer to POL-021 Social Media Policy)
- Do not capture images of children changing or in private settings

4.4 Transportation

- Club volunteers and coaches should not transport children alone without prior written consent from a parent or guardian
- If transportation is required, another adult should be present wherever possible

5. Grooming Awareness

Grooming is behaviour used by offenders to gain trust and access to children. Members should be alert to the following warning signs:

- An adult seeking excessive one-on-one time with a child
- Giving gifts or special treatment to a child outside normal club activities
- Communicating privately with a child through unofficial channels
- Making inappropriate physical contact or comments about a child's body

If you observe or suspect grooming behaviour, report it immediately to the Club President.

6. Reporting Obligations

6.1 Mandatory Reporting

All adults involved in the club should be aware that in the ACT, certain individuals have mandatory obligations to report suspected child abuse or neglect under the Children and Young People Act 2008 (ACT).

6.2 Club Reporting Process

If you witness, suspect, or receive a disclosure of child abuse, neglect, or inappropriate behaviour toward a child:

1. Do not investigate the matter yourself
2. If the child is in immediate danger, call 000
3. Contact the ACT Child Protection Helpline on 1300 556 729
4. Notify the Club President or Member Protection Officer immediately
5. Document what you witnessed or were told as accurately as possible
6. Maintain confidentiality — do not discuss the matter except with the relevant authorities

You do not need to be certain that abuse is occurring to report it. Report any reasonable concern.

6.3 Member Protection Officer

The Club President acts as the Member Protection Officer unless a dedicated person is appointed by the Committee. The Member Protection Officer can be contacted at president@ramblers.net.au.

7. Responding to Disclosures

If a child discloses abuse or harm to you:

- Stay calm and listen without showing shock or disbelief
- Tell the child they have done the right thing by telling you
- Do not promise to keep secrets
- Do not ask leading questions — let the child speak in their own words
- Explain that you need to tell someone who can help
- Report to the Club President and relevant authorities as soon as possible

8. Breaches of This Policy

Any breach of this policy will be treated seriously. Consequences may include immediate removal from all club activities, referral to Basketball ACT, and referral to relevant authorities including ACT Police.

9. Related Policies and Legislation

- POL-005: Complaints and Grievances
- POL-021: Social Media Policy
- Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011 (ACT)
- Children and Young People Act 2008 (ACT)

- Basketball ACT Member Protection By-Laws

10. Contacts

Contact	Email
Club President / Member Protection Officer	president@ramblers.net.au
ACT Child Protection Helpline	1300 556 729
Basketball ACT	info@basketballact.com.au