

Brisbane Catholic Bushwalking Club Inc – Child Safety Policy

Purpose

Brisbane Catholic Bushwalking Club is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all members, including children and young people. Although we are primarily an adult bushwalking club and do not run activities specifically for children or families, we recognise our responsibility to ensure that any child involved in our activities is safe and respected.

Scope

This policy applies to all members, volunteers, leaders, participants and committee members of Brisbane Catholic Bushwalking Club.

Commitment to Child Safety

We are committed to:

- Promoting the safety and wellbeing of children involved in our club
- Preventing child abuse by identifying and removing risks as far as possible
- Ensuring that any concerns about child safety are reported and addressed appropriately

Participation by Children

Children under 18 may only participate in club activities:

- With the knowledge and consent of their parent or guardian
- Under the direct supervision of a responsible adult (usually the parent or guardian)
- When the activity is deemed appropriate and safe for their participation

The club does not run activities specifically for children or families. We do not provide child supervision or child-specific programming.

Expected Behaviour

All members are expected to:

- Treat children and young people with respect and courtesy
- Avoid any conduct that could be construed as inappropriate or harmful
- Report any child safety concerns to the Club President or Secretary

Reporting Concerns

If any member has a concern about the safety of a child in connection with club activities, they should report it as soon as possible to the Club President or Secretary. Serious concerns will be referred to the appropriate authorities.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier if legislation or club circumstances change.

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Procedure.

1. It is the Parent or Guardian's responsibility to ensure that the child can complete the event. (See the Website <https://bcbc.space/> for Guidelines on Walk Ratings, Safety, and Essential Equipment).
2. Children can attend events ONLY if the Event Leader has been contacted BEFORE the event and permission requested and granted. Without prior permission from the Event Leader, they WILL NOT be allowed to participate.
3. No Event Leader is required to accept a child at an event and no reason needs to be given.
4. The Parent or Guardian must complete and sign the Acknowledgement of Risk and Obligations of Temporary Members (Visitors) Form and present it to the Event Leader prior to the commencement of the event. This signifies the Parent or Guardian has understood the Risks and Obligations and agrees to accept them.
5. The signed Acknowledgement of Risk and Obligations of Temporary Members (Visitors) Form must be returned with all walk forms to the relative Committee Member as soon as possible.
6. All forms connected with the participation of children must be kept until the child's eighteenth birthday and cannot be disposed of prior to this date. This can be in electronic form.

In the event of an emergency.

1. Physical contact with the child by other participants should be avoided except if it is necessary to restrain or protect them in the event of possible harm or to provide First Aid.
2. If either the Child or the Parent or Guardian are injured and require treatment, they must stay together. If this is not possible, the Parent or Guardian, or a representative of the Emergency Service must appoint an alternative Adult to be responsible for the child.
3. In the event the Parent or Guardian is unable to appoint an alternative Adult, the Event Leader will appoint an alternative Adult to be responsible for the child until a representative of the Emergency Service is present.

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