



# Perth Pirates Dragon Boat Club Inc.

Maylands Sport and Recreation Club  
50 Clarkson Road, Maylands 6051

## Guidelines for Interacting with Children Policy

### Maintain appropriate boundaries.

Coaches, members in positions of authority and all club members should maintain clear:

#### Physical boundaries

- Use drills to develop fitness, not as a punishment
- Only use physical contact that is appropriate for the development of a particular skill and has the permission of the athlete
- Work within sight of others at all times

#### Emotional boundaries

- Use positive feedback on performance, not negative feedback about the person
- Be encouraging and avoid put-downs

#### Social boundaries

- Attend dragon boating related events such as sponsorship and fundraising events, celebrations and annual meetings, but do not socialise with athletes under 18 years old outside sporting functions unless approved by a parent or guardian is in attendance
- Do not socialise with under 18-year-old athletes via social media, unless including a parent or guardian in the communication

#### Sexual boundaries

- Do not have sexual relationships with under 18-year-old athletes you are coaching, or are interacting with as a member or volunteer
- Do not touch athletes in ways likely to make them feel uncomfortable

#### Minimise physical contact

Generally, physical contact with athlete or participants should be to:

- Develop paddling or dragon boating skill/s
- Prevent, treat or respond to an injury (applying standard First Aid communication and permission protocols as appropriate)
- Meet the specific requirements of dragon boating

#### All physical contact by members should fulfil the following criteria:

- Physical contact should be appropriate for the development of a paddling or dragon boating skill/s
- Permission from any athlete or participant should always be sought
- Athletes or participants should be congratulated or comforted in public not in an isolated setting

## **Avoid being alone with a child**

To protect yourself and the child from risk:

- Do not isolate yourself and a child and avoid being alone with any particular child
- If a child approaches you and wants to talk to you privately about a matter, do so in an open area and in sight of other adults (e.g., other coaches, officials or parents/guardians)
- Before going into change rooms knock or announce that you will be coming in. Try to have at least one adult with you in a change room with children