



Child Protection Policy

East Coast Derby Dolls (ECDD) allows young people aged 16 to 18 years old to join as active league members. Allowing young people to participate in the sport of roller derby is an important part of being an inclusive league that fosters skater development and community participation. It is also an important part of ensuring roller derby remains strong into the future, by making a commitment to supporting the participation of younger generations in our sport.

Accepting members under the age of 18 means ECDD has a duty of care to ensure that the young people who participate in league training and activities have a safe and positive experience.

1.1 PURPOSE

The aim of ECDD's Child Protection Policy is to protect the safety of young people (children) in our care and prevent abuse from occurring, and in the event that allegations are raised in relation to child abuse, endangerment or harm, to ensure that the allegations are properly addressed. All complaints will be treated seriously and fully investigated and handled with maximum confidentiality and discretion.

1.2 DEFINITIONS

Child means a person involved in the activities of ECDD and under the age of 18 years.

Young person mean a child who is a teenager (aged between 12 and 18 years).

Child protection means any responsibility, measure or activity undertaken to safeguard children and young people from harm.

Sexual offence means a criminal offence involving sexual activity or actions of indecency or any act which exposes a child to, or involves a child in, sexual activity or matters beyond his or her understanding or contrary to accepted community standards. Sexually offence behaviours can include the fondling of genitals, masturbation, oral sex, vaginal or anal penetration by a penis, finger or any other object, fondling of breasts, voyeurism, exhibitionism, and exposing the child to or involving the child in pornography. It includes child grooming, which includes actions deliberately undertaken with the aim of befriending and establishing an emotional connection with a child (or the child's carer, family or supervisor) to lower the child's inhibitions and prepare them for engagement in a sexual offence.

Mandatory reporter means a person who is legally required to make a report to the Police if they form a belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection. It includes teachers, principals, registered psychologists, nurses, doctors and midwives.



1.3 POLICY

East Coast Derby Dolls (ECDD) has a zero tolerance approach to child abuse and is committed to promoting and protecting children from abuse and neglect to the greatest extent possible. All children have equal rights to protection from child abuse, regardless of their sex, religion, disability or sexual orientation etc.

ECDD supports the active participation of children aged over the age of 16. It listens to their views, respects their views and involves them when making decisions, where appropriate, especially about matters that will directly affect them (including their safety).

1.3.1 Recognising Child Abuse

Members of ECDD and the wider roller derby community may, in the course of participating in the sport of roller derby, form a belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection from child abuse.

Child abuse can be divided into four categories

Physical abuse: occurs when a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of a physical injury, such as a non-accidental physical injury.

Sexual abuse: occurs when a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of sexual abuse, such as when a child is exploited, or used by another for his or her sexual gratification or sexual arousal, or for that of others.

Emotional and psychological abuse: occurs when a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, emotional or psychological harm of such a kind that the child's emotional or intellectual development is or is likely to be significantly damaged; and

Neglect: occurs when a child's physical development or health has been, or is likely to be significantly damaged. It refers to an omission, such as depriving a child of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, intellectual stimulation, supervision and safety, attachment to and affection from adults, or medical care.

Child abuse includes any actions that results in actual or potential harm to a child, in circumstances where the child's parents have not protected, or are unlikely to protect, the child.

1.3.2 Child Safe/Child Friendly Guidelines to Prevent and Manage Child Abuse Risks

Change rooms

Members, regardless of gender, should only enter change rooms where a child or young person is present, if accompanied by another adult. Prior to entering change rooms, members should notify the people in the change room of their intended entrance. **This requirement does not apply to parents/legal guardians when in a room with their child.**

Hotel rooms and other accommodation

No member should be alone in the room of child or young person without the presence of another adult. The doors should always be open. Should it be necessary for a member to be alone in the room of a child or young person, another adult must be informed. **This requirement does not apply to parents/legal guardians when in a room with their child.**



Travel

All adult members retain an overriding responsibility for the welfare of all under-age members they accompany during team travel activities. All members have a duty of care for under-age members and they must meet that duty and avoid unaccompanied and unobserved activities with persons less than 18 years of age wherever possible. **This requirement does not apply to parents/legal guardians when in a room with their child.**

Improper sexual conduct

During all team activities, member must not engage in improper conduct of a sexual nature with, or in the presence of, an under-age member. Improper sexual conduct includes any form of child sexual abuse (defined under section 1.3.1), as well as but not limited to the following:

- inappropriate conversations of a sexual nature;
- obscene language of a sexual nature;
- suggestive remarks or actions;
- jokes of a sexual nature;
- obscene gestures;
- unwarranted and inappropriate touching;
- sexual exhibitionism;
- use of any device to show/watch offensive material; and
- any other action that could lead to an under-age member being physically, emotionally or psychologically harmed.

1.3.3 Adults under investigation

Adults under investigation in relation to a matter involving child abuse may be prohibited from participating in ECDD training and activities.

1.3.4 Coach assistance

All coaches must ensure that all physical contact with under-age members which occurs when coaching is appropriate for the situation and necessary for the under-age member's safety. It is strongly recommended that:

- coaches ensure that there are other adults present whenever coaching;
- coaches take care to explain the procedure to the young person prior to beginning any physical contact; and
- coaches obtain consent from the athlete prior to beginning any physical contact.

1.4 RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES

Child protection is a shared responsibility between ECDD, its members, associates, parents/guardians, coaches, spectators, volunteers and members of the wider roller derby community. Every member of ECDD is responsible for the care and protection of under-age members, and reporting information about child abuse.

If an ECDD member is concerned about an immediate risk to a Queensland child's safety, the person must phone "000" as soon as practicable.



Any Queensland person who believes on reasonable grounds that a Queensland child is in need of protection from any form of child abuse, may disclose that information to the Police.

1.4.1 Reasonable grounds for belief

A reasonable belief is formed if a reasonable person believes that:

- the child is in need of protection;
- the child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm as a result of physical or sexual injury; and
- the child's parents are unable or unwilling to protect the child.

To form a reasonable belief, you should consider and objectively assess all the relevant facts, such as the source of the allegation and how it was communicated, the nature of and details of the allegation, and whether there are any other related matters known regarding the alleged perpetrator.

A 'reasonable belief' or a 'belief on reasonable grounds' is not the same as having proof, but is more than mere rumour or speculation.

You will have reasonable grounds to notify if:

- a child states that they have been physically or sexually abused;
- a child states that they know someone who has been physically or sexually abused (sometimes the child may be talking about themselves);
- someone who knows a child states that the child has been physically or sexually abused;
- professional observations of the child's behaviour or development leads a professional to form a belief that the child has been physically or sexually abused or is likely to be abused;
- or
- signs of abuse lead to a belief that the child has been physically or sexually abused.

1.5 INTERNAL RELATED DOCUMENTS

ECDD Rules and Regulations

ECDD Code of Conduct

Skate Australia Member Protection Policy