



## **PARA DISTRICT OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY**

### **OBJECTIVE**

This policy shall define the role and responsibilities of the Para District Obedience Dog Club (PDODC) committee, volunteers and members in ensuring a positive environment where every person is safe from all forms of discrimination, harassment and abuse.

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Para District Obedience Dog Club (PDODC) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and positive sporting environment free of all forms of discrimination, harassment and abuse.

All members, volunteers and visitors have a legal and ethical responsibility to treat all individuals with respect and dignity. This includes ensuring the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable persons at all times.

### **PRINCIPLES**

- Abuse of any kind, is illegal and abhorrent and must not be tolerated or ignored.
- All persons have the right to be safe from abuse at all times.
- The PDODC has a role to play in fostering a safe environment and contributing towards the protection of children and vulnerable persons from abuse.
- Children and vulnerable persons are entitled to the support of a responsible person if they experience or are at risk of harm.

### **COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The PDODC committee will undertake the following to manage its obligation under this policy:

- Increase awareness of the club's core values of good fellowship in a positive and encouraging sporting environment.
- Distribute and promote this policy to all club members, volunteers and affiliates.
- Appropriately respond to complaints of harassment, discrimination and abuse and breaches of this policy.

- Elect a 'Responsible Officer' with relevant clearances to support children and vulnerable persons. If this position is not filled, the responsibility shall revert to the club President.
- Ensure persons under the age of 18 are accompanied by a parent or guardian on PDODC grounds.

### **MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

PDODC members will undertake the following to comply with this policy:

- Make themselves aware of the contents of this policy.
- Treat all persons with respect, courtesy and dignity.
- Be responsible for their own conduct and behaviour.
- Acknowledge that the welfare and safety of children and vulnerable persons is of paramount importance above all others.
- Ensure persons under the age of 18 are accompanied by a parent or guardian on PDODC grounds.
- Promote and strengthen the sport of dog obedience, agility and flyball in the intended spirit.

This policy shall be read in conjunction with the Constitution of the Para District Obedience Dog Club Inc. Any complaints or breaches to this policy shall be handled in accordance with Clause 5. Membership of this Constitution.

This Policy shall be reviewed every year at the PDODC Annual General Meeting to ensure it meets the stated objectives.