



Form No:	IMS-P-013	Version No:	V20240206
Issued: 2015-06-16	Reviewed: 2024-02-06	Authorised By:	Director Communication & Marketing

SCOPE

This Policy applies to all members of the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA), the Association's Executive Board, Position Holders, ATHRA affiliated clubs and their respective executive committees.

POLICY

ATHRA will develop processes and procedures to protect and assist the development of children as deemed appropriate by relevant federal and state legislation. All ATHRA affiliated club members are encouraged to be familiar with their respective state legislation. This information can be found at:

<https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/australian-child-protection-legislation>

The Executive Board will ensure that it remains updated in relation to all requirements stipulated for the protection of children by the Child Protection Act 1999, and the requirements of the Commission for Children and Young People for the safe management of activities conducted with and/or for children and young people within the time frames designated in their legislation/s.

All paid and voluntary personnel will support the protection of the children and adults and that all children will be protected to the best of our ability from harm, abuse (verbal, physical, emotional), discrimination, racism, bullying.

ATHRA will develop its procedures on the following:

1. Children must be protected from all forms of harm, bullying, harassment and intimidation based on gender, culture, ethnicity, or any impairment that a person may have.
2. Any person that is, or would be expected to be, in a position of authority, responsibility and/or duty of care must not in any circumstances, engage in sexual conduct of any nature with any child or young person. It is irrelevant whether the sexual conduct is consensual, non-consensual, or condoned by parents or caregivers. The age of the young person or the adult is irrelevant.

ATHRA will adopt clear policies and procedures for the protection of the children and adults in activities such as:

- Club activities - such as facilities, facility surrounds, special events, regular activities, coaching days, clinics, training, social activities;
- Accommodation types - such as home stay, billeting, motel, camping, hotel, dormitory;
- Accommodation arrangements – such as ratios of male to female, children, adults, disabilities, age groups;
- Other legal requirements - such as alcohol, drugs, required licenses (motor vehicle), criminal checks, privacy.

CONDUCT FOR ADULTS

Adults will avoid unaccompanied and unobserved activities with child members, and for their own protection should avoid potentially compromising situations by ensuring where reasonably possible that at least two adults are in attendance whilst supervising and/or accompanying child members.

All adults accept that bullying, physical, emotional, neglect and/or any type of abuse is unacceptable conduct by any adult within the organisation.

No adult utilises the organisation to promote his or her own beliefs, behaviours or practices.



All adults respect the dignity of others and recognise their words and actions serve as an example for other adults and children.

All adults will respect the rights of all children and young people in the organisation by maintaining the organisation's and the community's values, policies and procedures for the safe management and protection of all children.

IMPROPER CONDUCT OF A SEXUAL NATURE

This includes but is not limited to:

- Physical contact - touching, body rubbing, pinching, slapping, kissing, arm around, or any other contact that can be perceived by the child to be of a sexual nature;
- Sexual and/or suggestive body, hand gestures;
- Offensive verbal language or actions;
- Sexual jokes;
- Personal verbal comments, hand or body gestures;
- Requests/demands for sexual activity.

ADULTS' RIGHTS

Adults are entitled to receive:

- Training, education and information in all aspects of child protection;
- Support when reporting signs of and/or abuse;
- Access to support agencies where and when required;
- Protection from abuse by child members, other adults including parents.

ADULTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure the rights and responsibilities of the children in their care are enforced;
- Not to abuse children or young members physically, emotionally or sexually;
- Listen and act on child members' statements concerning alleged abuse;
- Report suspicions and/or allegations of child abuse immediately and appropriately;
- Protect all information regarding children;
- Use only appropriate child behavior management.

CHILD'S RIGHTS

Children and young people are to be:

- Protected from adults and other children;
- Respected;
- Referred to professional help if required;
- Listened to;
- Kept safe.



ORGANISATION'S RIGHTS

- Educate and train adults who care for the young members;
- Select adults with proven ability to manage the protection of the young members;
- Take appropriate action if a member contravenes the child protection policies and/or procedures;
- Act on any complaints as determined in the organisation's child protection procedures and/or the procedures determined by the Child Protection Act appropriate for the offence;
- Contact the relevant statutory bodies and/or child protection bodies where required.

ORGANISATION'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- Make every effort to identify potential abusers by complying with the criminal record checks of all persons under the Commission of Children and Young Peoples Act 2000 legislation;
- Treat all matters and information regarding child abuse with confidentiality and disclose information only to those who need to know;
- Provide forums to openly discuss child protection issues;
- Provide support to those who report child abuse;
- Communicate the organisation's needs in relation to the protection of children to all who are responsible for same;
- Promote to all members what is acceptable conduct and what is not and the consequences for non-compliance;
- Be consistent by seeking professional advice to assist with the decision making process in the delivery of non-compliance consequences.

POLICY REVIEW AND CHANGE

This Policy shall be reviewed annually by the ATHRA Executive Board and the review date and outcome recorded for future reference.