

# How WAIS LOOKS AFTER ALL ITS PARTICIPANTS

This information is for young people **aged 13 to 17 years old**. It helps you understand the Western Australian Institute of Sport's (WAIS) **Participant Protection Policy**.

The Participant Protection Policy explains the rules to make sure WAIS is a safe, positive, inclusive and supportive place for **EVERYONE**.

This Policy applies to everyone who participates in WAIS – including athletes, coaches, employees, managers, staff and parents. It explains how everyone within WAIS should be treated, and what to do if you think you, or someone else, is being treated poorly.

To understand how WAIS looks after the safety of young people and children in particular, refer to the WAIS Safeguarding of Children and Young People Policy.

## How should people in WAIS be treated?

Everyone who participates in WAIS has the right to feel safe, included, supported and happy. Participants in WAIS should behave in a way that is welcoming, respectful and kind.

Anything that makes you or another person feel uncomfortable, unsafe, threatened, or unwelcome is not ok.

The Participant Protection Policy makes sure that everyone in WAIS works together to protect each other by:

- Treating each other with respect. Everyone in WAIS should speak to each other respectfully and in a kind and encouraging way. They must not bully, repeatedly say hurtful things, or talk to each other in a way that makes people feel unwelcome. No one should be treated unfairly due to gender, culture, race, disability or sexuality.
- Protecting each other from discrimination, harassment, bullying and abuse. Everyone in WAIS should feel like they are being treated fairly and with kindness in a safe and supportive way.
- Reminding each other of the rules. It's everyone's responsibility to show good behaviour and be aware of the Participant Protection Policy rules.
- Not accepting bad behaviour. WAIS should recognise if there is bad behaviour and encourage people to speak out, so they can fix any problems and make WAIS a safe and happy place to be.



## What behaviours are not allowed in WAIS?

You and other participants in WAIS should feel safe both in-person and online from:

- **Abusive behaviour** including physical, sexual, emotional and verbal abuse, or neglect.
- **Bullying** by repeatedly using words or actions to cause distress to someone else on purpose. This could be things like name-calling, spreading rumours, or deliberately excluding someone.
- **Harassment** by being nasty, teasing or threatening to someone else.
- **Sexual misconduct** where someone is invading the privacy of another person by touching them in places, or talking to them in a way that makes them feel upset, scared or embarrassed. It can include unwelcome touching, unwanted invitations or requests for dates or sex, sexually explicit or suggestive messages, or intrusive questions about their personal life or body.
- **Discrimination** is making someone feel like they're being treated unfairly or differently to everyone else because of things like where they were born, the colour of their skin, their religion, gender identity, sexual preference or a disability.
- **Victimisation** is where someone wants to make a complaint about bad behaviour, or have made a complaint, and other members of the sport make them feel unsafe for doing so.
- **Vilification** is someone spreading nasty stories or hatred about another person in the sport because of something that might make them seem different to others.

## What can you do if you or another young person feel unsafe?

If you, or anyone under the age of 18, is feeling unsafe, you are protected by the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy. This is a policy especially created for you, and is separate to this Participant Protection Policy.

The Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy says that adults who work or volunteer at WAIS have a shared responsibility to support and help you. They must listen to you, hear what you say and do something to stop anything bad from happening to you.

If you feel upset about something that has happened to you or someone else, you should speak to someone you trust to get help to make it stop. This can be a family member, or an adult you trust WAIS. You, or they, will report it to the WAIS Integrity and Safeguarding Manager at [integrity@wais.org.au](mailto:integrity@wais.org.au).

You, or they, can also report it to Sport Integrity Australia via the [online reporting form](#).





## What can you do if you think an adult might feel unsafe?

The rules say that it is the shared responsibility of everyone in WAIS to keep an eye on behaviour and report anyone who might be making others feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

If you see bad behaviour towards anyone over the age of 18, talk to an adult you trust. You, or they, can report it to the WAIS Integrity and Safeguarding Manager at [integrity@wais.org.au](mailto:integrity@wais.org.au).

## What can you do if you see someone being discriminated against?

If you see anyone, no matter what age, being discriminated against, you can report it to the WAIS Integrity and Safeguarding Manager at [integrity@wais.org.au](mailto:integrity@wais.org.au). You can also report it to Sport Integrity Australia via the [online reporting form](#).

## Other ways you can get help

Free and confidential\* online and phone counselling/advice services. You can call or chat anytime, for any reason.

### ■ Kids Helpline

Visit: [www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

Free call: 1800 55 1800 (available 24/7)

Email: [counsellor@kidshelpline.com.au](mailto:counsellor@kidshelpline.com.au)

### ■ eheadspace

Visit: [www.headspace.org.au/eheadspace](http://www.headspace.org.au/eheadspace)

Free call: 1800 650 890

(9am–1am AEST, seven days per week)

### ■ Youth Law Australia (legal information and help for young people under 25).

Visit: [www.yla.org.au](http://www.yla.org.au)

Free call: 1800 950 570

(9am–5pm AEST, Monday to Friday)

Email: [advice@lawmail.org.au](mailto:advice@lawmail.org.au)

\*Confidential means the person you speak to will not share what you tell them with anybody without your agreement, unless you or someone else is in danger.