

RAAA BOARD APPROVED PROTECTION GUIDELINES FOR RAAA PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS & ADULTS

DEFINITIONS:

RAAA Program Participant: Any person registered to participate in a RAAA sanctioned sport.

RAAA Program Adult: Any person acting in the capacity of a coach, assistant coach, board member, program director, program coordinator, referee, or other types of volunteer or paid positions who work with RAAA program participants. (This would include anyone older than the age group they are interacting with: for example, a 15 year old assistant coach of a Kindergarten team would be considered a RAAA Program Adult for the purposes of these guidelines.)

PROTECTION GUIDELINES:

These guidelines recognize that the lines of authority and separation between RAAA Program Participants and RAAA Program Adults must be recognized and respected. Generally, program participants are children and as such, deserve special protection. These guidelines provide that protection, while setting levels of acceptable conduct for adults.

1. PHYSICAL CONTACT:

- A. Adults must be aware that any physical contact with program participants can be misinterpreted. Physical contact should be limited to that necessary and appropriate to teach a skill, treat an injury, or console or congratulate a participant. In the instance of teaching a skill, minimal contact should be involved and none which places the adult in the position of power and /or intimidation; for example, taking a participant by the shoulders and physically moving them to a different field position or body position.
- B. Sexual contact of any kind of type is prohibited between adults and program participants, whether or not contact is consensual.

1. SOCIAL CONTACT:

- A. Adults should not socialize or spend time alone with program participants except at game, practices, or team functions. An adult in a one-on-one situation with a program participant is generally inappropriate.
- B. Adults should avoid instances of being alone with a program participant. In the event that a program participant remains on the field or at the gymnasium waiting for transportation, the adult should wait with the program participant and at least one other program participant (and their parent if they have already arrived) either on the field or in the gym (never in the car) to guarantee the program participants safety and well-being. (Adults should stress with their program participant's parents that they are responsible for the safe and timely transportation of the program participant to and from all games and practices.)
- C. During out-of-town tournaments, a non-parent/custodian adult shall not share any sleeping arrangements with a program participant unless the program participant's parent is also present.

- D. Adults should respect the privacy of program participants. If shower or changing facilities need to be used, schedules should be arranged so that adults and program participants have separate use.

1. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING:

- A. Adults share the responsibility for the program participant's health with the program participant's parent(s) while at practices, scrimmages, and games. Head injuries resulting in disorientation should result in a program participant remaining out of the game.
- B. Adults are also responsible for assuring that the fields and/or gymnasiums are safe for the program participants and that the equipment is in good, safe condition prior to the start of any activity. In the event of incoming inclement weather, the RAAA adult is responsible for ending the practice or game immediately upon the sighting of any lightning or other dangerous weather conditions.
- C. Adults transporting program participants must model safe driving techniques and enforce seat belt use with program participants and other vehicle occupants.
- D. Adults need to be aware of signs of neglect and/or abuse (physical, emotional, or sexual) of the program participants. Observations should be reported to a member of the Rosemount Area Athletic Association Risk Management Committee or a (RAAA Board Member) and no one else! If any child reports such abuse to you, report this immediately to a Risk Management Committee Member and the legal authorities in your area (if you feel the risk of danger to the program participant is imminent.)

1. LANGUAGE AND BEHAVIOR:

- A. Offensive and vulgar language by Adults or Program Participants is unacceptable. Adults should model good communication and behavior skills at all times.
- B. Language that is denigrating in the nature, content or tone, or refers to one's gender, race, national origin, disability, or religion is unacceptable.
- C. Inappropriate language or actions targeting officials, opponents, or spectators, may be grounds for penalizing a program participant's team and/or removal of the program participant from the game or an Adults removal from the game and/or the premises, as well as removal from the coaching position.

1. VIOLATIONS:

- A. Violations of these guidelines by adults or program participants will subject them to disciplinary actions by the RAAA Board of Directors, including, but not limited to: warnings, sanctions, suspensions, or removal from the position.
- B. Anyone witnessing a violation to these guidelines should report the violation to the Risk Management Committee.