



Maleny Rangers Soccer Club

PO Box 390, Maleny QLD 4552
www.malenyrangerssoccer.com
ABN 58 870 892 581

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Dear Parents and Carers

CARE OF CHILDREN AT SOCCER TRAINING AND GAMES

We're proud of the growth and development of our club and the opportunity it provides for children to develop their skills and learn about team sport. As with any change, growth provides its challenges and the Committee feels the need to bring one of these to your attention.

We now have 85 younger players in the Small Sided Competition (Squirts to U10). Each age group trains together and we can have up to twenty 7 or 8 year olds training under the supervision of a single coach. Our volunteer coaches do a marvelous job of developing the kid's skills, however their duties only extend to soccer training.

The Maleny Showgrounds are not a controlled environment; there is a road, a creek, bushland, equestrian facilities and many other hazards including potential 'Stranger Danger'. Maleny Rangers Committee in conjunction with our coaches are not comfortable with the existing situation.

Risks that have been raised include:

- Small children leaving the training area without the coach's knowledge or approval.
- Children going to the toilet unaccompanied.
- Small children having 'tantrums' and storming off.
- No parent or responsible adult present to assist when a child has been injured.
- Unsupervised children
 - when parents drop children at training and return late; or
 - when parents drop children at games on the weekend and then leave

It is physically impossible for the coach to train a large group of children and manage these 'off field' situations; neither it is fair to expect it of them. To be confident our children are safe when involved in football activities, the Committee has decided to enact a Policy on 'Care of Children at Training and Matches'. In this we attempt to recognise the generally accepted increased level of self responsibility as children become older. A responsible adult refers to parental supervision or their designated alternative. It does not refer to the coach.

The formal policy is attached. In summary:

- For children playing U8 or Younger:
As a parent, you must be on site during training and at matches and in a position to supervise your child, or have made an arrangement with another responsible adult to do so.
- For children playing U9 and U10:
You don't have to remain on site for training but your children must stay under the training supervision of the coach until you collect them. They must be accompanied by an adult or another child for toilet trips. You must collect them on time. A responsible adult must be present at matches.
- For children playing U11 or Older:
Parents must instruct their children as to their requirements and be responsible for their children's safety. The coach will provide supervision during training but not before or after or if the child leaves the training area. A responsible adult must be present at matches.

After considerable deliberation we feel that these measures are required to ensure the safety of children who come to train and play football. We hope to have your support with this and welcome feedback or comment.

This policy will be in effect from Tue 13 July 2010. From this date on please ensure that you are providing supervision as required under the policy.

Regards

Richard Bojack
President

POLICY ON CARE OF CHILDREN AT TRAINING AND MATCHES

Desired Outcome

- Responsibility for supervision of the various age children present at training and matches is clearly defined and communicated.
- Minimum supervision requirements are sufficient to ensure that all children are adequately supervised as they move around the training and playing venues.
- The application of this policy ensures the safety of children present at training and playing venues.

Policy

Children Playing at Squirts, Under 6, Under 7 and Under 8.

- A responsible adult must be present at all times during training and match playing and must be in a position to supervise each child in their care.
- This responsibility cannot be delegated to the coach or team manager.
- One parent/guardian or delegated adult can be responsible for a maximum of 5 children.

Children Playing at Under 9 and Under 10.

- Children may be left under the supervision of coaches at training but must remain with the coach until collected by a responsible adult.
- Children may leave the supervision of the coach only for a toilet visit and must be escorted by an adult or be accompanied by another child.
- The responsible adult must return to the training grounds promptly at completion of training to collect children.
- A responsible adult must be present at all times during a match.

Children Playing at Under 11 or Older.

- The coach will provide supervision of children participating in training. The coach will not be responsible for children who leave the training area.
- It is the responsibility of the Parent/Guardian to instruct their children as to their actions prior to and immediately after training to ensure they behave safely.
- A responsible adult must be present at all times during a match.