



RYDE CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION BEHAVIOUR CODE 2017

This behavior code outlines the conduct expected of volunteers who engage with children and young people through Ryde Carnival Association (RCA) and its activities.

Purpose

Following this code will protect children from abuse and inappropriate behaviour from adults. It will also help volunteers to maintain the standard of behaviour expected of them and reduce the possibility of unfounded allegations of abuse being made against them.

Upholding this code of behaviour

All volunteers are expected to report any breaches of this code to the RCA officer managing the activity or the RCA Chair or Vice Chair. Any breach of this code involving a volunteer may result in them being asked to leave the RCA. Serious breaches may also result in a referral being made to a statutory agency such as the police and the local authority children's social care department.

Role of Volunteers

When working with children and young people for the RCA, volunteers are acting in a position of trust. It is important that volunteers are aware that they may be seen as role models by children and young people and must act in an appropriate manner at all times.

When working with children and young people it is important to:

- Operate within RCAs principles and guidance and any specific procedures
- Follow the RCAs child protection policy and procedures at all times
- Listen to and respect children at all times
- Avoid favouritism
- Treat children and young people fairly and without prejudice or discrimination
- Value and take children's contributions seriously, actively involving children and young people in planning activities wherever possible
- Ensure any contact with children and young people is appropriate and relevant to the work of the project
- Ensure language is appropriate and not offensive or discriminatory
- Ensure equipment is used safely and for its intended purpose
- Provide examples of good conduct you wish children and young people to follow
- Challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations/suspensions of abuse
- Ensure that wherever possible, there is more than one adult present during activities with children and young people, or if this isn't possible, that you are within sight and hearing of other adults
- Be close to where others are working. If a child specifically asks for or needs some private time with you, ensure other volunteers know where you and the child are
- Respect a young person's right to personal privacy
- Encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like
- Recognise that special caution is required when you are discussing sensitive issues with children or young people

You Must Not

- Patronize or treat children and young people as if they are silly
- Allow allegations to go unreported
- Develop inappropriate relationships such as contact (including social media contact) with children and young people that is not part of the activities of RCA or previously agreed with the lead or managing volunteer
- Conduct a sexual relationship with a child or young person or indulge in any sexual contact with a child or young person. Any such behaviour between an adult volunteer and a child or young person using the services of the RCA represents a serious breach of trust on the part of the volunteer and is not acceptable under any circumstances
- Let children and young people have your personal contact details (mobile number or address) unless this has previously been agreed as an exceptional circumstance by the current Chair of the RCA
- Make sarcastic, insensitive, derogatory or sexually suggestive comments or gestures in front of children and young people
- Act in a way that can be perceived as threatening or intrusive
- Make inappropriate promises to children and young people, particularly in relation to confidentiality
- Jump to conclusions about others without checking facts
- Either exaggerate or trivialize child abuse issues
- Rely on your reputation or that of the RCA to protect you
- Take unnecessary risks when common sense, policy or practice suggest a more prudent approach
- Adopt an attitude of complacency with regard to your own conduct