



COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN POLICY

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:

a) "SkateABLE™ Members"- Coaches, Registered participants, Parents, Guardians, Administrators and Volunteers of SkateABLE™ programs, activities and events.

Purpose

2. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that SkateABLE™ standards support the healthy development of children in recreation and sport by making all SkateABLE™ Members aware that there is an expectation to fulfill their obligation at all times consistent with those of the Commitment to Children Policy.

Application of this Policy

3. This Policy applies to all SkateABLE™ Members as defined in the Definitions.

Responsibilities

4. All SkateABLE™ Members have a responsibility to ensure:

a) **Environments for children will be:**

- _ Secure, safe and stable;
- _ Caring;
- _ Stimulating;
- _ Accessible;
- _ Challenging;
- _ Considerate of personal space needs and special needs;
- _ Equipped with age, size and ability-appropriate equipment, furniture and materials; and
- _ Welcoming to all races, cultures and abilities.



b) Activities for children will:

- _ Allow for a combination of self-directed and leader-directed activities;
- _ Provide children with opportunities for input, involvement and choice;
- _ Reflect both assessed and expressed needs;
- _ Provide opportunities for active participation and reflection;
- _ Encourage co-operation and friendship;
- _ Incorporate varied learning styles and developmental stages;
- _ Recognize uniqueness and encourage mastery; and
- _ Value and incorporate cultural, racial and linguistic diversity.

c) Course instructors and Leaders will:

- _ Ensure all children are treated with respect, honesty and trust;
- _ Recognize and accept children's individual needs and circumstances;
- _ Employ positive behaviour management methods;
- _ Help children value and celebrate diversity in the community;
- _ Consistently model appropriate behaviour; and
- _ Continually evaluate the program and their leadership to ensure improvements and reflect changing needs.

d) SkateABLE™ will:

- _ Encourage and support the ongoing development of staff and volunteers with regard to their knowledge and understanding of healthy child development;
- _ Ensure clear and on-going communication with parents and families;
- _ Encourage participation and input from children and families; and
- _ Provide the organizational supports necessary to ensure that children feel safe, welcome, competent, connected, empowered and special.