



## OUR MISSION

To connect people with dragon boating across Australia.

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ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	DATE	REVIEWED	APPROVED
Previous	Participant Pregnancy Policy	Sep 2022	DBWA	Sep 2022
Current	Formatted	Jul 2023	DBWA	Oct 2023
Review		2026		

## DBWA PARTICIPANT PREGNANCY POLICY

### SCOPE

This policy applies to pregnant women who are participating in dragon boating and, DBWA and Club administrators and members.

It is essential that the policy and guidelines are followed and are appropriately distributed to all members.

### INTRODUCTION

As a result of developments in sports involving women who are pregnant, DBWA has recognised the need to develop a consistent policy concerning females wishing to continue participating in Dragon Boating related activities whilst pregnant.

All sporting organisations owe a duty of care to pregnant participants in their sport. A document formulated by the Australian Sport Commission entitled Pregnancy in Sport has been adopted by DBWA. [Pregnancy in Sport – Guidelines for the Australian Sporting Industry.](#)

The Guidelines support the position that any pregnant participant should be given the opportunity to decide for herself, in consultation with her medical advisers, whether or not to participate whilst pregnant. DBWA supports the Guidelines in relation to all active Dragon Boating related activities.

The Guidelines state that “Sporting organisations may owe a duty of care to pregnant players to advise them that there are theoretical risks involved in participating while pregnant, and to advise them that they should obtain medical advice about whether to participate, how to participate; and for how long.” “Sports administrators’ duty of care to pregnant players does not require them to place a blanket ban on the person’s participation in a particular sport from a specific stage of pregnancy”..

### DBWA PREGNANCY AND PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

- Continued participation in Dragon Boating during pregnancy poses theoretical risks to participants and their unborn child. Under no circumstances should you advise, issue guidelines, or discuss the theoretical health risks of continued participation in Dragon Boating, but rather direct the participant to the general concept - Pregnancy in Sport – Guidelines for the Australian Sporting Industry.
- Pregnant participants should always seek advice from an appropriately qualified medical practitioner as to the risks involved in participating in Dragon Boating and related activities



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while pregnant and whether it is safe for them to continue participating while pregnant and, if so, for how long should they continue to participate. This advice should be given by the participant's own doctor to avoid further liability.

- Obtaining this advice will allow the participant to make an informed decision on medical grounds, as to whether she continues to participate in the sport and related activities and, if so, for how long.
- Whilst you can enquire as to whether the participant has sought appropriate medical advice, you cannot request details. The participant is not obliged to provide a medical certificate however, if one is presented it is beneficial.

If you are aware that the participant has not obtained appropriate medical advice or is ignoring such medical advice, there is a duty of care to take positive steps to protect both the pregnant participant and the unborn child. These steps may include suggesting and/or arranging for the participant to see an appropriately qualified medical practitioner (not associated with the club, or DBWA), or to provide counselling to cease competing of her own accord or out of regard to the unborn child.

Please ensure that your participants are directed to the [AusDBF National Insurance Program](#) and that they pay particular attention to the exclusions contained therein.

Should you have any queries regarding this policy, please [contact Dragon Boating WA](#).