

Racquetball Association of Ireland

Safety Statement

This statement sets out the health & safety policy of the Racquetball Association of Ireland and the means through which that policy is to be implemented. Our objective is to provide a safe environment for athletes and volunteers.

It is the intention to protect our athletes, volunteers and members of the public from accident or injury while at events run by the Association.

The Association will seek to ensure that all venues hired by us do not constitute a risk to the Health & Safety of our athletes, volunteers or the public.

Our approach to Health & Safety as far as is reasonably practicable will be:

1. To provide a safe environment to play the sport of racquetball.
2. To continue to identify and control hazards.
3. To prevent as far as is reasonably possible, any improper conduct or behaviour likely to put the Safety, Health & Welfare of athletes, volunteers or the public at risk.
4. To consult with management/staff of venues we hire on all Health & Safety matters.
5. To provide protective clothing and equipment where necessary.
6. To provide in conjunction with facility management a safe means of entering and leaving the building.
7. To make Health & Safety a key issue.

Association Responsibilities:

The responsibility for the provision of a safe place to compete at RAI National Tournaments and events rests with the Tournament Secretary, for RAI Junior Tournaments the responsibility rests with the Youth Development Officer and for Open Tournaments the responsibility rests with Tournament Directors. Specifically these responsibilities are:

- To check that venues hired by the Association is conforming to all current statutory requirements.
- To make available every appropriate equipment to ensure Health & Safety.
- To maintain a vigilant and continuing interest in all Health & Safety matters relevant to both the athletes, coaches and volunteers.

Athlete/Member Responsibilities:

As an athlete/member of the Association you have a responsibility to yourself and your fellow athletes to compete in a safe and fair manner.

Athletes must:

1. Co-operate and obey instructions from tournament directors and referees.
2. Report any potential hazards(e.g wet court floor) to the Referee/Tournament Director.
3. Be aware of the nearest emergency exits and fire fighting / first aid equipment.
4. Never interfere with or misuse anything at a venue in the interests of Health & Safety.
5. Always wear protective eyewear that conforms to the International Racquetball Federation standards when playing on court
6. Not partake in any form of horseplay or prank likely to lead to injury to yourself or others.

Alcohol and Drugs:

It is not permissible to compete at an RAI tournament under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs. Please see the RAI Rules & Regulations.

Reporting of Accidents:

All accidents and near misses, whether resulting in injury or not, must be reported to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will furnish his/her report to the RAI Tournament Secretary for consideration by the RAI EXCO.

The following details are required:

- Date, Time and Place of the incident.
- Name, Address, and Age of the injured person.
- Circumstances, including cause and nature of the injury and the arrangements made for its treatment.

All accidents will be investigated by a member of RAI Exco and a written report prepared. Corrective action will be taken where necessary to avoid a reoccurrence.

First Aid:

First Aid boxes are provided to ensure that first aid supplies are easily accessible when required in an emergency. First Aid boxes will be located at Tournament Desk or at Reception.

Free access to First Aid Boxes must be maintained at all times. Painkillers cannot be provided in the First Aid Boxes. Where it is possible ice packs will be provided.

Injuries

The Rules of Racquetball covers injuries and how there are dealt with from a playing perspective.

Players can be awarded 15 minute injury break for certain kind of injuries, please see the Rules of Racquetball. Where a serious injury occurs it may be necessary to summon medical aid.

Tournament Directors should have ready access to local emergency numbers.

Where a junior athlete(Under-18) gets injured, the Tournament Director should inform the athletes parents or guardian as soon as is practicable.

For head injuries and/or an athlete shows sign of concussion, the match should be abandoned and medical aid called for the athlete.

Document Signed

_____ Dated _____
Tournament Secretary

_____ Dated _____
President

Document Reviewed* [date]

*This document is to be reviewed every three years or whenever necessary.

Other Documents**Safety Statement for Children in Sport**