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Policy Statement

Being inclusive means providing a range of options and opportunities so that people of all cultures, ability, gender, race, sexuality, religion or age can participate to the extent that they want to without fear or favour. Inclusion requires focus, commitment and flexibility to remove barriers to participation and to create programs and activities that allow everyone to achieve their potential.

Our club encourages participation by all groups and individuals to play or to be involved to the level they wish, without fear or favour, whether it be at the social or competitive levels or in coaching, officiating or administering. We understand the important role that sport can play in promoting a feeling of belonging and inclusion.

The Burnside Hockey Club will work to identify and address the barriers to participation in hockey within our club through specific strategies and programs that provide opportunities for those new to the sport to participate in fair, safe and inclusive hockey environments.

We recognise the benefits to our sport being inclusive, including:

- Increasing membership, improving our financial stability;
- More players, adding new levels of competition;
- More volunteers from a wider network of community, family and friends;
- More expertise in officiating, coaching and/or administration;
- Greater social benefits from forming and maintaining new relationships and bonds;
- Closer engagement with the wider community, business and potential sponsors;
- Good positive stories about our sport and club to share with media;
- A fresher and more vibrant organisation, as new people bring new ideas and innovation.

We are committed to ensuring that:

- No one is turned away because of their culture, ability gender, race, sexuality, religion, or age, as we will seek to provide a place for everyone;
- Everyone is welcomed and supported to participate to the extent that want to and are able;
- Our facilities premises and publications are accessible to everyone;
- Our social events are welcoming and inclusive;
- Our volunteers and staff are properly trained and educated about inclusion and how to deal with any complaints and grievances;
- Election to Membership of our committees is open to all individuals and diversity groups.

Please note that all Burnside Hockey Club (BHC) members are treated in a fair and equitable way, irrespective of their sex, race, marital status, origin, beliefs on matters such as religion and politics, disability, sexual preference, age or carers responsibilities.

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