

Warrington Warwick Boys Basketball Association (WWBBA) Volunteer Clearance and Mandated Reporter Policy

Under Act 15 of 2015 (the Act), which amends the provisions of the Child Protective Services Law, volunteers who are responsible for the child's welfare or who have "direct volunteer contact" with children — meaning the care, supervision, guidance, or control of children and routine interaction with children will be required to have background checks. The Act clarifies that "routine interaction" means "regular and repeated contact that is integral to a person's employment or volunteer responsibilities."

In order to comply with this Pennsylvania state law, all WWBBA coaches and assistant coaches must provide the required background checks (clearances). New clearances must be provided every 60 months. The provision of these clearances is facilitated through an online process by the vendor Background Manager. WWBBA will have a clearance director to manager the process (identify individuals who will serve as coaches and help them through the online process).

Upon review of clearances:

- Prospective coaches with nothing reported on their background checks will be cleared to coach.
- Prospective coaches who are disqualified from volunteering with children based on the requirements of Title 23 Section 6344 (c) will not be allowed to serve as WWBBA coaches or assistant coaches and will be discretely informed of this fact by Background Manager staff or the WWBBA clearance director. Note that in such cases only Background Manager staff, the WWBBA clearance director, and the affected WWBBA age director (if necessary) will be aware of this coaching prohibition.
- Background checks for prospective coaches with a reported item(s) that does not meet the threshold for disqualification per Title 23 Section 6344 (c), will be reviewed by a committee of three WWBBA board members (including the clearance director, the affected age director and one additional individual, typically the president). This committee will consider the specific nature of the reported incident, the length of time since the incident, and any other pertinent available information (clearance director may discuss details with impacted coaching candidate) to determine if the individual will be allowed to coach within the WWBBA. If the committee determines that the individual may coach, the individual's name will not be shared (only the clearance director will have that information). If the committee determines that the individual may not coach, the clearance director will inform the coaching candidate of this fact discretely. Note that in such cases only Background Manager staff, the WWBBA clearance director, and the affected WWBBA age director (if necessary) will be aware of this coaching prohibition. While decisions are not precedent setting as all situations are unique, each situation that this committee reviews will be documented without names in order to develop guidelines for reference in future similar situations. Note that if a situation arises with circumstances substantially the same as a previous situation and the clearance director believes that the same result is appropriate, s/he may consult with the president and if the president is in agreement they may make the decision without involving the age director.

- The name of any individuals prohibited from coaching in the WWBBA will not be shared (even within the Board) unless necessary to ensure that the individual does not serve as a coach.
- Please be aware that on occasion both the coach and assistant coach for a team may be unavailable for a game or practice. In such situations, the coach/assistant will attempt to identify another parent who has the required clearances but if no such person is available and another person without clearances on file is available, that individual may be asked to coach but not on a regular, repeated basis.

Coaches and assistant coaches are mandated reporters and must therefore immediately make an oral report of suspected child abuse followed within 48 hours by a written (electronic) report. The phone number to make an oral report and link to make the written report may be found here: <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/childwelfareservices/childlineandabuseregistry/>.