



ARA Minors (under 18s)

How does the ARA deal with under 18s who wish to join the ARA?

The answer is, the same as Ordinary Members. There's no difference other than that a minor needs to be signed up by their Parent/Guardian. This is defined by the ARA Constitution Part 2.

The ARA has Ordinary Members and Guests Members. Minors can become Ordinary or Guest Members if they choose to. The real question that needs to be answered by the Minor considering joining or by the Parent/Guardian of a minor considering signing up their son/daughter etc is:

- Do they really want or need to be in the ARA?

The ARA looks after the back end of re-enactment and intentionally does not get involved in how its members enjoy their hobby so minors may be able to enjoy re-enacting with their parents and/or groups that they are affiliated with without being in the ARA at all.

If, however, they are seeking to participate in activities with their affiliated groups that requires PL insurance or explicitly requires ARA Membership, then they can join as an Ordinary member or as a Guest.

So what are the ARA's restrictions on the activities of Minors?

The ARA does not determine what re-enactment activities engaged in by ARA Members and the Members Affiliated Groups (MAGs*) are suitable for Minors. Nor does the ARA determine what/which Minors are suitable for specific activities engaged in by ARA Members and their MAGs.

That responsibility falls to the Minors, their Parents/Guardians and the MAGs with whom they are engaging in the activity. The ARA does provide General Safety Principles that will assist the Minors, their Parents/Guardians and the MAGs to decide what they wish to let Minors participate in. The ARA also has Competency Guidelines for Hand Weapon Combat. These can be found on the ARA Documents page at the following link: http://re-enactors.org.au/?page_id=87 and include consideration of the following principles: Legislative Compliance, Safe Conduct, Storage and Security, Display Boundaries, Events/Activity, Competency, Contingency, Safety Control, Events Notifications and General Safety.

By way of example, ARA Members are insured for PL to participate in activities involving military jeeps and tanks. Minors may be permitted by their Parents/Guardians and MAGs to ride in them but they would be hard pressed to demonstrate compliance with the General Safety Principles to let them drive one. (Your explanation would likely begin with the words: "You see, Your Honour, and person of the Jury, what happened was ...").

Ultimately, of it all goes wrong, an ARA Member's failure to comply with the General Safety Principles and other ARA guidelines may jeopardise a PL claim if they have to make one and may lead them to be answering difficult questions to parties outside the ARA. So please, follow the General Safety Principles and other guidelines, be sensible and err on the side of caution at all times

in your decisions about what activities you let minors participate in regardless of whether they are ARA members or not.

So, if a Parent/Guardian or MAG lets a Minor participate in any specific activity, does this mean that this is imposed on or has to be accepted by any other Minors, Parents/Guardians or MAGs?

No. Each Parent/Guardian, MAG and ARA Member makes their own mind up about what they are comfortable letting minors participate in.

So how do groups that don't know each other all get together at an event and all agree to and comply with the same rules at an event?

Each event has an event host.

Ask them what are the rules of the event that you are attending. Not just about minors but about all the facets of re-enactment that are important to you having a good time. The event hosts:

- may have decided on them already
- they may ask for input from guests that are attending
- they may encourage you to lobby your case to them or to other guests attending
- they may put it to a vote on the day and
- heck, they just may not know.

You can then decide whether you and minors in your MAG want to go to the event or not. The ARA won't make those decisions for you.

**MAGs: Members join the ARA as individuals. The ARA does not have any formal relationship with groups that ARA Members are affiliated with (called Member Affiliated Groups or MAGs) other than that the ARA will work with MAGs to assist ARA Members to enjoy their hobby. The ARA shares responsibilities and obligations with its members. It does not impose anything on MAGs.*

If you have any further questions about minors in the ARA you are welcome to:

1. Communicate them with the ARA Committee via admin@reenactors.org.au or
2. Share them with other ARA Members in the ARA Members Forum at <http://forum.reenactors.org.au/>