

Paint Rockingham REaD (Widi) Mascot Health and Safety Guidelines



The following safety guidelines are to be adhered to at all times. Please read the safety guidelines, sign and return with your booking form.

- 1. Widi must always be escorted by a guide**
When wearing the Widi costume your vision will be restricted and you are particularly vulnerable to trip hazards. The guide should always walk slowly and take you by the arm when moving, as well as verbally guide you through any hazards.
- 2. Physical distancing guidelines for Western Australia must be adhered to at all times**
- 3. Widi costume must not be worn by any person who is unwell**
- 4. Volunteers must only be in the mascot suit for a maximum of 30 minutes at a time**
Mascot costumes may become excessively hot under certain conditions, and extended use can be hazardous. Keeping cool and comfortable in costume is essential for your health and safety, as well as to maximize the effectiveness of your mascot performance.
Before you put on the suit identify an appropriate rest room and make sure you can remove the suit without children present.
You must rest in a sheltered place preferably indoors and in air conditioning after being in the suit for 30 minutes. If you feel uncomfortable, too hot or faint whilst wearing the suit, you must let your guide know.
- 5. When wearing the Widi costume maintain good hydration**
Take into account your personal circumstances. Some people lose more fluids through sweating and will need to drink more than others who lose less. On very hot days you will need to drink more than on cool days or in air-conditioning. Even in cool conditions, you will need to drink more than usual.
Please note: No food or drink apart from water is to be consumed while wearing the Widi costume.
- 6. Wear the ice vest during hot days**
To prevent overheating and to protect your health and wellbeing, an ice vest with gel pack inserts is available and recommended for use. To activate the gel packs, soak them in water for 15 minutes. Please refer to the Cool Vest and Gel Pack instruction sheet for further information.
- 7. Always wear clothing under the costume such as underwear, a t-shirt, socks and a headband**
Remember to bring a change of clothes so you can change out of the damp/wet clothing if necessary.
- 8. There is a strict no talking policy whilst in the mascot costume**
To maintain the Widi character regardless of who is in the suit and to protect the wearer from accusations of inappropriate behaviour or language, there is a strict no talking policy whilst in the costume. Make sure you create a way of communicating non-verbally with your guide before you are in public. The most important sign to be clear on is the one informing your guide that you need a break.
- 9. Stretch before and after putting on the Mascot costume**
- 10. Widi must always be identified as that character**
Widi's name cannot be changed to suit the event or borrower's needs. Widi must always be an ambassador for reading and for Paint Rockingham REaD and not used for any other purpose.



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10. **Cleaning**

Costume must be sprayed both inside and outside of the costume with the sanitiser spray provided and wiped down with an antibacterial wipe after use. Please do not wash any part of the costume. Upon return, City staff will spray the costume for a second time and will leave out to air overnight. A scheduled dry clean will take place on a 6 monthly basis.

I acknowledge that I have been briefed on the role and responsibility I'm about to undertake in respect to utilising the mascot suit, the associated potential risks and safe working practices in accordance with this guidance advice. I understand that I am working at my own risk although covered by public liability insurance and any appropriate insurance cover provided by my employer or volunteering organisation.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____