
SAFEGUARDING ROLES

Special Olympics Ireland (SOI) is committed to promoting and ensuring the safety of all athletes involved in our activities. All volunteers who take up roles which require them to work with children or vulnerable adults will be vetted and will partake in Safeguarding training which is relevant for their role. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all, however there are a number of roles with specific requirements in relation to safeguarding:

National Children's Officer

- Is the Mandated person and National Designated Liaison Person, in accordance with the Children First Legislation.
- Oversees the completion of the Child Safeguarding Statement (CSS) and Risk Assessment and is The Relevant Person referenced in the CSS.
- Informs and updates staff and volunteers in the area of child protection, athlete welfare and safeguarding policies and practices.
- Ensures the implementation of legislative requirements.
- Updates, develops and distributes policies relating to safeguarding in Special Olympics Ireland.
- Advocates for the welfare and rights of athletes within the Special Olympics Ireland Programme.
- Supports Club Safeguarding Officers to carry out their role within clubs.

Regional Director

- Is the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for the region responsible for reporting concern, disclosures or allegations of abuse to statutory authorities.
- Supports and advises the Club Designated Liaison Person (Chairperson) on the above.
- Advocates the implementation of safeguarding policies in clubs.
- Supports Regional Development Officers to ensure appropriate safeguarding training and vetting requirements are in place within clubs.

Chairperson

- Complete Safeguarding 1 Training (ROI) or Safeguarding Children and Young People (NI) **AND** Safeguarding 3 Training (ROI) or Designated Safeguarding Officer (NI).
- Primary representative for the club.
- Ensures club activities are in line with Special Olympics Ireland's rules, policies and procedures.

Designated Liaison Person¹

- A resource person for the club on child protection or welfare concern.
- Responsible for ensuring that the reporting procedures are followed.
- Be familiar with and able to carry out reporting procedures as outlined in Sport Ireland's Safeguarding Guidance for Children & Young People in Sport.
- Record all concerns brought to their attention and the actions taken in relation to a concern or allegation of abuse.
- Contacts the Mandated Person in Special Olympics Ireland if a report has been made.
- Advise club administrators on issues of confidentiality, record keeping and dataprotection.

Club Safeguarding Officer

- Safeguarding 1 Training (ROI) or Safeguarding Children and Young People (NI) **AND** Safeguarding 2 Training (ROI) or Designated Safeguarding Officer (NI).
- Will be a member of the club committee.
- Oversees & coordinates the implementation of safeguarding policies & ensures adequate first aid cover is provided at all times.
- Oversees the completion of the Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.
- Ensures an athlete-centred environment in training and competition.
- Advocates for athletes' rights and well-being.
- Provide opportunity for engagement with athletes and space for their voice to be heard.
- Deals with safeguarding issues. Not to be confused with concerns of abuse or disclosure which must go to the Designated Liaison Person (Chairperson).
- Be familiar to athletes so they can contact you if they need to.
- Engages with the National Children's Officer and initiatives offered to support the role.

Coach

- Provide regular, quality training activity and participation in competition by the athletes.
- Must hold the standard coaching qualification, be vetted and attended Safeguarding 1 Training (ROI) or Safeguarding Children and Young People (NI)
- Provide a space for feedback and opportunities for athletes to raise concerns.
- Report any concerns or disclosures of abuse to the Designated Liaison Person.

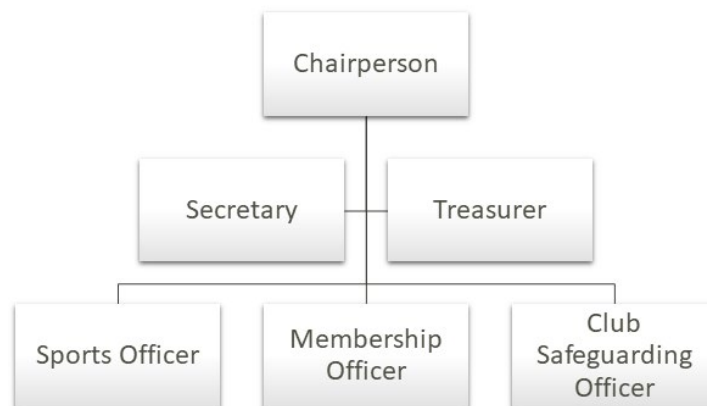


Figure 1: Committee Management Team (CMT) Structure

ⁱ Sport Ireland Safeguarding Guidance for Children & Young People in Sport