

Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1 –

provides various sporting activities and opportunities for young people and vulnerable adults with an intellectual disability through participation in Special Olympics activities

Club details:

- Name:
- Sport(s):
- Training Venue/s:

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

is committed to safeguarding children under the guidance of Special Olympics Ireland Safeguarding Policies, our volunteers working with our young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport. The following set of principles should be adhered to:

- **Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in sport.
- **Needs of the child** - All children's sport experiences should be guided by what is best for children. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of young people.
- **Integrity in relationships** - Adults interacting with children in sport are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.
- **Fair Play** - All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasised, and organisers should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.
- **Quality atmosphere & ethos** - Children's sport should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.
- **Competition** - Competition is an essential element of sport and should be encouraged in accordance with ability, age and gender. A child centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.
- **Equality** - All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

Section 3 - Risk Assessment

This written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents required to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified (low, medium, high) and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

| Club and Coaching Practices | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| Risk Identified | Procedure in place to manage risk identified | Risk L,M,H | Action Required |
| Lack of coaching qualification. | Coach Standards Policy /Recruitment policy | | |
| Supervision issues | Supervision policy | | |
| Unauthorised photography & recording activities | Photography & Use of Images policy | | |
| Behavioural Issues | Code of Conduct / Safeguarding 1 / Complaints & Disciplinary policy | | |
| Lack of gender balance amongst coaches | Coaching Standards policy/ Supervision policy | | |
| No guidance for travelling & away trips | Travel/Away trip policy / Child Safeguarding Training. | | |
| Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy | Safeguarding Policy / Complaints & disciplinary policy | | |

| Complaints & Discipline | | | |
|---|--|-------------------|------------------------|
| Risk Identified | Procedure in place to manage risk identified | Risk L,M,H | Action Required |
| Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy | Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure. | | |
| Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent | Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure. | | |
| Complaints not being dealt with seriously | Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure. | | |

| Reporting Procedures | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| Risk Identified | Procedure in place to manage risk identified | Risk L,M,H | Action Required |
| Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures | Reporting procedures/policy / Coaching Standards Policy / Code of Conduct/Safeguarding Training Policy/Induction Training | | |
| No Designated Liaison Person appointed | Reporting procedures/policy | | |
| Concerns of abuse or harm not reported | Reporting procedures/policy / Child Safeguarding Training – L1 | | |
| Not clear who young people should talk to or report to | Post the names of Club Safeguarding Officer, Designated Liaison Person (chairperson) and Mandated Person | | |

| Use of Facilities | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| Risk Identified | Procedure in place to manage risk identified | Risk L,M,H | Action Required |
| Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc..... | Supervision policy / Coaching Standards Policy/ Codes of Conduct | | |
| Unauthorised exit from children's areas | Supervision policy / Coaching Standards Policy | | |
| Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas | Photography policy and use of devices in private zones | | |
| Missing or found child on site | Missing or found child policy/procedures/Facility procedures/Health + Safety Policy | | |
| Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc... | Safeguarding policy/Event Management Guidelines | | |

| Recruitment | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| Risk Identified | Procedure in place to manage risk identified | Risk L,M,H | Action Required |
| Recruitment of inappropriate people | Recruitment policy/Safeguarding Policy | | |
| Lack of clarity on roles | Recruitment policy/Role descriptors | | |
| Unqualified or untrained people in role | Recruitment policy/ Coaching Standards Policy/Safeguarding policy | | |

| General Risk of Harm | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| Risk Identified | Procedure in place to manage risk identified | Risk L,M,H | Action Required |
| Harm not being recognised | Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training/Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults training | | |
| Harm caused by: Child to Child Coach to Child Volunteer to Child Member to Child Visitor to Child | Safeguarding policy / Safeguarding Training L1 | | |
| General behavioural issues | Code of Conduct | | |
| Issues of Bullying | Anti-Bullying policy/Code of conduct | | |
| Vetting of staff/volunteers | Recruitment policy / Vetting policy | | |
| Issues of Online Safety | Social Media / Online Safety policy | | |
| Safety in Virtual Environments | Safeguarding in a Virtual learning environment guidelines | | |

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on

Section 4 – Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015 and in Northern Ireland the Club Framework for Safeguarding Standards in Sport. In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

_____ has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities.
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.

The Mandated/Relevant Person for Special Olympics Ireland is Amanda Ní Ghabhann.

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our Club is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities.

Please note the following:

- That volunteers have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, the Agency and members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by _____

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed no later than 31 December 2025

Signed: Chairperson Signature

Date:

On behalf of

Name:

Phone no:

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact