Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1 – CLUB NAME Special Olympics Club

CLUB NAME **Special Olympics Club** 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

CLUB NAME **Special Olympics Club** 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 CLUB NAME **Special Olympics Club** 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 Facilities guidelines		
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 *(insert date)*.

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.

CLUB NAME **Special Olympics Club** 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 Sinéad Tarrant..

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 CLUB NAME **Special Olympics Club.**

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on ***(insert date <24 months)***

Signed: (CHAIRPERSON) Date: (Insert date)

(On behalf of the CLUB NAME **Special Olympics Club**)

Name: (print name of Club Safeguarding Officer) Phone no: (Club Safeguarding Officer's)

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact

(insert name of Club Safeguarding Officer).