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	High	
Supervision issues	Supervision policy	Medium	
Unauthorised photography & recording activities	Photography & Use of Images policy	High	
Behavioural Issues	Code of Conduct / Safeguarding 1 / Complaints & Disciplinary policy	Low	
Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	Coaching Standards policy/ Supervision policy	Medium	
No guidance for travelling & away trips	Travel/Away trip policy / Child Safeguarding Training.	High	
Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy	Safeguarding Policy / Complaints & disciplinary policy	High	

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.	High	
Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent	Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure.	High	
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure.	High	

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	High	
No Designated Liaison Person appointed	Reporting procedures/policy	High	
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	Reporting procedures/policy / Child Safeguarding Training – L1	High	
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	High	

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	High	
Unauthorised exit from children's areas	Supervision policy / Coaching Standards Policy	High	
Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas	Photography policy and use of devices in private zones	High	
Missing or found child on site	Missing or found child policy/procedures/Facility procedures/Health +Safety Policy	High	
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc…	Safeguarding policy/Event Management Guidelines	High	

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

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	High	
Harm caused by: Child to Child Coach to Child Volunteer to Child Member to Child Visitor to Child	Safeguarding policy / Safeguarding Training L1	High	
General behavioural issues	Code of Conduct	High	
Issues of Bullying	Anti-Bullying policy/Code of conduct	Low	
Vetting of staff/volunteers	Recruitment policy / Vetting policy	High	
Issues of Online Safety	Social Media / Online Safety policy	Medium	
Safety in Virtual Environments	Safeguarding in a Virtual learning environment guidelines	High	

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 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, Special Olympics Ireland 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 2028

Signed: Date:

On behalf of

Name: Phone no:

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact