



Child Safeguarding Safety Statement - 1st June 2024

Fountainstown Community Sports Club

Ferry Road, Fountainstown, Co.Cork, P43 E283

488 voluntary staff and members

Fountainstown Community Sports Club (The Club), provides a range of sporting activities & leisure opportunities for children and young people through participation in club events. These include but are not limited to tennis, basketball and pitch & putt. The Club is committed to safeguarding children and young people and seeks to create a safe environment for them to participate in organised events. The Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under Children First Act 2015, (the First National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice and Gateway Northern Ireland). Club volunteers and staff follow the guidance and policies of Tennis Ireland's NGB which aligns with national policy.

Principles to safeguard children from harm

The Club is committed to safeguarding children. By working under the guidance of the NGB Safeguarding Policies, all personnel working with 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 an age and level appropriate manner. 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.

Risk Assessment

This Fountainstown Community Sports Club written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring and, given the required policy, guidance or process documents required to alleviate these risks.

For the purpose of this statement, our definition of 'risk of harm' is as per the definition contained in the Children's First Act 2015.

The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
<p>Club and Coaching Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lack of coaching qualification- Supervision issues- Unauthorised photography & recording activities- Behavioural Issues- Lack of gender balance amongst coaches- No guidance for travelling & away trips- Lack of adherence with misc. procedures in Safeguarding policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Coach Education Policy/Recruitment Policy in place- Supervision Policy/Coach Education Policy in place- Photography & Use of Images Policy in place- Codes of Conduct/Safeguarding 1/Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure/Policy in place- Coach Education/Supervision Policy in place.- Travel/Away Trip Policy. Child Safeguarding Training- Supervision Policy/Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure/Policy in place

<p>Complaints & Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary Policy - Difficulty in raising an issue by child and/or parent - Complaints not being dealt with seriously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure/Policy. Communications procedure in place. Safeguarding Statement on Club website and notice board. - Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy Communication procedure in place - Complaints & Disciplinary procedure /policy in place
<p>Reporting Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures - No DLP appointed - Concerns of abuse or harm not reported - Not clear who young person should talk to or report to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reporting procedures policy in place/Coach Education policy/Codes of Conduct in place - Reporting procedures policy in place. DLP appointed - Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy in place. Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 - Names of CPO, DLP and Relevant Person posted on notice board and website.
<p>Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment of inappropriate people - Lack of clarity on roles - Unqualified or untrained people in role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment Policy/Vetting Policy - Recruitment Policy - Recruitment Policy

<p>Use of Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unauthorised access to designated children’s play & practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc - Unauthorised exit from children’s areas - Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas - Missing child - Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. , dressing room, showers etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supervision Policy/Coach Education Policy - Supervision Policy/Coach Education Policy - Photography& Use of Images Policy - Missing Child Policy - Safeguarding Policy
<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors - No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Conduct to members and visitors - Unauthorised photography & recording of activities - Inappropriate use of social media & communications by under 18’s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Safeguarding Statement/Supervision Policy and Code of Conducts - Codes of Conduct are distributed to committees and coaches. Club Rules, Safeguarding Policy available to members through website. Dedicated Safeguarding page on Club website. - Photography & Use of Images Policy - Communications Policy/Social Media Policy/Codes of Conduct

<p>General Risk of Harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harm not being recognised - Harm caused by: Child to Child Coach to Coach Volunteer to Child Member to Child Visitor to Child - General behavioural issues - Issues of Bullying - Vetting of staff/volunteers - Issues of Online Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguarding Policy/Child Safeguarding Training - Safeguarding Policy/Child Safeguarding Training - Codes of Conduct - Anti -Bullying Policy - Recruitment Policy/Vetting Policy - Social Media Policy
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The Risk Assessment was undertaken on **21/05/2024**

Procedures

In addition to a risk assessment, The Club has the following further procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by club personnel against a child or young person 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 the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities
- Procedure for maintaining a list of personnel (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.
- Procedure for managing trips away and hosting children.

Please note that all listed procedures are available on request.

The Relevant Person's for Fountainstown Community Sports Club are:

Emma Barry (Designated Liaison Person/DLP)

Lynn Farrell (Female Child Safety Officer)

Humphrey Desmond (Male Child Safety Officer)

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our club is committed to 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:

- All club personnel have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians/members of the public on request
- This statement will be displayed on the club website and noticeboard.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 1st JUNE 2025.

Date: 31 MAY 2024

On behalf of Fountainstown Community Sports Club

Name: Hayley Williams	CHAIRPERSON
Name: Emma Barry	DLP
Name: Lynn Farrell	FEMALE CHILD SAFETY OFFICER
Name: Humphrey Desmond	MALE CHILD SAFETY OFFICER

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, or any child safety concerns, please contact Fountainstown Community Sports Club Children's Officer fcscsafeg@gmail.com

In case of an emergency where a child is in immediate danger please contact TUSLA <https://www.tusla.ie> or the Gardai <https://www.garda.ie/en/>