

GENERAL SPORTS INFORMATION RELATING DIRECTLY TO IRELAND

Sport Ireland's Role

Sport Ireland's remit is to develop and disseminate guidelines and codes of practice promoting best practice for the protection of children in sport consistent with child protection guidance and legislation. In order to advance this function Sport Ireland engages with over 60 autonomous National Governing Bodies of Sport to raise awareness of and promote behaviours to uphold good practice and fair play in all sport.

Every Club has a Club Childrens Officer (CCO) and Designated Liaison Person DLP)

- Club Children's Officers (CCO): Children's Officers are appointed within clubs to act as a resource for children and to represent them at committee level
- Designated Liaison Person (DLP): A person who is responsible for reporting allegations or suspicions of child abuse and welfare issues to the Statutory Authorities. This person will be a resource to anyone in the organisation/club who has a child protection/welfare concern.

Responsibilities of Sporting Bodies

- A central goal for all involved in children's sport is to provide a safe, positive and nurturing environment where children can develop and enhance their physical and social skills.
- In order to create a culture of safety which promotes the welfare and protection of children, organisations working with children and young people are required to
 - Carry out a risk assessment of harm and produce a Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Produce, implement and review an organisational Child Safeguarding Policy which outlines procedures and practice
 - Produce, implement and review organisational Codes of Conduct/Practice guidelines when working with children and young people

Each National Governing Body (NGB) has a National Children's Officer (NCO)

- National Children's Officer (NCO): Some of the areas the NCO is responsible for:
 - The promotion of the values, attitudes and structures which make sport enjoyable for children
 - Having knowledge of relevant child protection legislation
 - Ensuring children's interests are kept on the agenda of the Governing Body.

Sports Leaders in Ireland

Safeguarding Training

Sport Ireland requires all National Governing Bodies to ensure all members working with children and young people complete the Sport Ireland Safeguarding workshops.

- Basic Safeguarding Workshops Safeguarding 1
- Validation period: 3 years
- Expected attendees: any person working with or has interaction with or who is involved in the planning/administration of activities or events with young people (according to the requirements of NGB)
- The following Sports Leaders can help you find a Safeguarding 1 training Course:
 - Club Childrens Officer (CCO)
 - Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) website or LSP Co-Ordinator

Garda Vetting

Ensuring the individual completes their vetting with either the National Vetting Bureau or Access NI through the relevant Sport's Governing Body prior to commencement of working with children or vulnerable people. Contact the sporting governing body you wish to get involved in for more information on this process.

Relevant Legislation in Ireland

- National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012–2016: Under these Acts, it is compulsory for employers to obtain vetting disclosures in relation to anyone who is carrying out relevant work with children or vulnerable adults.
- Children First Act 2015: The Children First Act 2015 is an important addition to the child welfare and protection system as it will help to ensure that child protection concerns are brought to the attention of Tusla without delay
- Child Care Act 1991: This is the key piece of legislation which regulates childcare policy in Ireland. Under this Act, Tusla has a statutory responsibility to promote the welfare of children who are not receiving adequate care and protection

More Information

Tusla

The Child and Family Agency was established on the 1st January 2014 and is the dedicated State agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children. It represents the most comprehensive reform of child protection, early intervention and family support services ever undertaken in Ireland.

To access the Tusla website, please visit here: <https://www.tusla.ie/>

Sport Ireland Ethics

Sport Ireland has a dedicated section to Safeguarding and Ethics on their website which can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.sportireland.ie/ethics>

National Governing Bodies (NGBs)

The National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) recognised by Sport Ireland are at the centre of Irish sport. NGBs are key delivery agencies for Sport Ireland in the achievement of its strategic and operational goals.

To find a list of National Governing Bodies of Sport please visit here:

<https://www.sportireland.ie/national-governing-bodies/ngb-contact-finder>

Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs)

It is the role of LSP's and other partners to increase participation in sport nationwide. To find a list of Local Sports Partnerships please visit here: <https://www.sportireland.ie/participation/lsp-contact-finder>