

## **Privacy Notice Sport Ireland Research and Innovation**

### **Who We Are**

Sport Ireland ('we' or 'us' or 'our') gather and process your personal information in accordance with this privacy notice and in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. Sport Ireland is a statutory authority that plans, leads and coordinates the sustainable development of competitive and recreational sport in Ireland.

This notice provides you with the necessary information regarding your rights and our obligations, and explains how, why and when we process your personal data.

### **About the Research and Innovation team**

Sport Ireland research has made an important contribution to the understanding of the dynamics of sport, exercise and physical activity in Ireland. This knowledge informs the policy agenda, the actions of Government and feeds directly into the delivery of effective sports programmes. Sport Ireland conducts research into many areas of sport and physical activity; including the biennial population survey of adult sports participation - the Irish Sports Monitor (ISM).

In January 2021, the Evaluation and Innovation Units (earlier under the Directorate of Sport Ireland Participation) were integrated into the Research Unit to form a new Sport Ireland Research and Innovation Unit. Sport Ireland's ambition is to see our work in research, evaluation and innovation broaden to develop insights and support solution generation in the areas of participation, performance and high-performance sport.

### **Information That We Collect and Analyse**

Sport Ireland's Research and Innovation Unit collect and processes your personal information in connection with our role as the public authority responsible for sport development on the island of Ireland. We will never collect any unnecessary personal data from you and do not process your information in any way, other than as specified in this notice.

The personal data that we may collect is: -

- Age
- Geographic Location
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Disability
- Nationality
- Level of Education
- Income
- County
- Family Status such as number and age of children
- Relationship status
- Employment status
- Sexual orientation
- Beliefs and attitudes to sport and physical activity
- Sports participation and physical activity behaviours

- Club membership
- Volunteering behaviours including coaching
- Event attendance behaviours.
- Active travel behaviours

It is important to note that these are the categories of data that we may collect, these will differ depending on the project or initiative that is underway. Individual or granular personal data is never communicated or shared publicly.

**We collect information in the below way: -**

Sport Ireland's Research and Innovation team may collect your information through your registration and completion of one of our research/evaluation/innovation surveys, workshops, focus groups, funding applications or where you make your personal data available to us through phone calls, emails and hard copy correspondence. Sport Ireland may also collect your information through interaction with your National Governing Body (NGB), Local Sport Partnership (LSP) or Sport Ireland recognised Funded Bodies.

**How We Use Your Personal Data**

Sport Ireland takes your privacy very seriously and will never disclose, share or sell your data without your consent; unless required to do so by law. We only retain your data for as long as is necessary and for the purpose(s) specified in this notice. Your data will not be transferred to a Third Country (outside the EU) without your knowledge for the duration of the processing.

Sport Ireland will rely on the public authority (as per Article 6 of the GDPR) basis for collecting and processing your personal data in line with the functions outlined in the Sport Ireland Act *Section 8* (m) and (n); with reference to research with the purposes outlined below:

- To deliver large scale population surveys on participation in sport and physical activity
- To monitor and evaluate Sport Ireland's investment into sport and physical activity in the the country
- To carry out reviews/evaluations of participants' experience of Sport Ireland funded services/programmes/initiatives
- To monitor and evaluate Sport Ireland's investment into innovation programmes for sport and physical activity
- To deliver research underpinned by questions related to behavioural science/behaviour change to progress sport
- To compile statistics for reporting, management and research purposes
- To communicate with you by post, email, and phone, including the distribution of relevant newsletters/updates and other information
- To comply with our obligations under legislation
- To enable us to contact others in the event of an emergency where the participant has supplied contact details to us

Sport Ireland will process your data in a GDPR compliant manner and in line with Sport Ireland's statutory responsibilities as a State Agency.

As per Article 8 of the GDPR Act, in relation to, the processing of the personal data of a child shall be lawful where the child is at least 16 years old. Where the child is below the age of 16 years, such processing shall be lawful only if and to the extent that consent is given or authorised by the holder of parental responsibility over the child. Where Sport Ireland process Children's Data for research or evaluation purposes they generally rely on consent of the data subject.

In relation to the CSPPA study we process based on the legitimate interest legal basis. Where Sport Ireland relies on consent of the data subject this has resulted in a lower response rate from socially disadvantaged groups. The CSPPA study has received ethical approval from the Ethics Committees of partner universities. At all times the best interest of the data subject is the paramount consideration when processing personal data for this study.

### **Your Rights**

You have the right to access any personal information that Sport Ireland processes about you and to request information about: -

- What personal data we hold about you
- The purposes of the processing
- The categories of personal data concerned
- The recipients to whom the personal data has/will be disclosed
- How long we intend to store your personal data for
- If we did not collect the data directly from you, information about the source

If you believe that we hold any incomplete or inaccurate data about you, you have the right to ask us to correct and/or complete the information and we will strive to do so as quickly as possible; unless there is a valid reason for not doing so, at which point you will be notified.

You also have the right to request erasure of your personal data or to restrict processing (where applicable) in accordance with the data protection laws; as well as to object to any direct marketing from us. Where applicable, you have the right to data portability of your information and the right to be informed about any automated decision-making we may use.

If we receive a request from you to exercise any of the above rights, we may ask you to verify your identity before acting on the request; this is to ensure that your data is protected and kept secure.

### **Sharing and Disclosing Your Personal Information**

We do not share or disclose any of your personal information without your consent, other than for the purposes specified in this notice or where there is a legal requirement. Sport Ireland uses necessary trusted and reputable Third Parties to partner with in the delivery of research and evaluation projects; however, all processors acting on our behalf only process your data in accordance with instructions from us and comply fully with this privacy notice, the data protection laws and any other appropriate confidentiality and security measures.

Sport Ireland operates a “confidentiality net” system in which information about you is kept within the bounds of a specific network of professional staff. There are two “nets” within which information about you would be shared;

1. Third Party consultants and contractors hired to complete specific projects or services under the areas of research, evaluation, and innovation on behalf of the Research and Innovation Unit.
2. Other relevant units within Sport Ireland outside of the Research and Innovation Unit. E.g. High Performance Research may be shared with the High Performance Unit and the Sport Ireland Institute.

Information will be exchanged with staff relevant to the specific project or service only and all members of the team are aware of the confidential nature of the information being exchanged and operate in a best practice environment.

Sport Ireland may also share aggregate\* data, where necessary, proportionate and relevant, with the following external organisations;

- Government Departments
- State agencies e.g. Quality and Qualifications Ireland, Local Sport Partnerships
- Third level institutions:
- Software Providers: Software providers or service providers performing administrative functions on behalf of Sport Ireland
- Third parties: Companies or organisations providing specific services to, or on behalf of Sport Ireland

Access to anonymised research data\* may be provided to the [Irish Social Science Data Archive \(ISSDA\)](#), whereby other researchers within ISSDA’s ‘Designated Community’ can apply for access to the anonymised data. ISSDA’s Designated Community consists of higher education institutions and research-performing organisations across multiple sectors and jurisdictions with broad relevance to the Social Sciences and Public Health.

\*Aggregate or anonymised research data shall mean data that has been irreversibly rendered anonymous in such a way that the Data Subject is no longer directly or indirectly identifiable.

### **Safeguarding Measures**

Sport Ireland takes your privacy seriously and takes every reasonable measure and precaution to protect and secure your personal data. We work hard to protect you and your information from unauthorised access, alteration, disclosure or destruction and have several layers of security measures in place, including measures such including but not limited to: SSL, TLS, encryptions, pseudonymisation, restricted access, IT authentication, firewalls, anti-virus/malware.

### **Consequences of Not Providing Your Data**

You are not obliged to provide your personal information to Sport Ireland. Not providing your information does not preclude you from participating in Sport Ireland funded programmes or initiatives.

### **How Long We Keep Your Data**

All the personal data that we collect and hold is kept in accordance with our retention policy. This policy is guided by the legislative and regulatory frameworks we are subject to and helps us to ensure that we do not keep personal data for longer than is necessary for the purpose(s) it was collected for.

### **Sport Ireland Data Protection Officer**

Sport Ireland  
The Courtyard  
Sport Ireland Campus  
Blanchardstown  
Dublin 15  
Tel: 01 8608800  
[dpo@sportireland.ie](mailto:dpo@sportireland.ie)

### **Complaints**

If you are dissatisfied with a response that you receive with regard to data privacy, you have the right to make a complaint to the Data Protection Commissioner:

#### **Data Protection Commissioner**

Canal House  
Station Road  
Portarlinton  
Co Laois  
R32 AP23  
**Lo Call: 1890 252 231**  
**Email: [info@dataprotection.ie](mailto:info@dataprotection.ie)**

### **Updates**

Sport Ireland will review this policy as required but at least every three years in conjunction with the Data Protection Policy. We would recommend that you review this policy periodically for the latest privacy information and would ask that you advise us of any changes to your personal data so that we can ensure that it is accurate and up to date.