



Vision Sports Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement

CRO No 20028114, CHY 10793

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Version	Date	Edits	Edits Made By
Version 1.0	17 th February 2021		
Adopted by VS Board of Directors on March 10th 2021			
Version 2.0	20 th June 2022	Updated contact details for National Children's Officer, Safeguarding Officer	SM
Adopted by VS Board of Directors on July 13th 2022			

Child Safeguarding Statement Vision Sports Ireland

Vision Sport Ireland is the National Governing Body (NGB) for sport for vision impaired people in Ireland. Vision Sports Ireland recognises the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The organisation is committed to ensuring our safeguarding practices reflect statutory and legal responsibilities, government guidance and best practice.

- **Safety of Child** - Vision Sports Ireland has a duty of care to ensure all members are safe, and are never put at risk. Before becoming a registered volunteer with Vision Sports Ireland, applicants **will** be Garda vetted through Vision Sports Ireland/NCBI.
- **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 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.

- **Awareness of Vision Impairment** – All our children and young people have a vision impairment and we are committed to ensuring our volunteers understand that this can create an additional vulnerability.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Sport- Sport Ireland and the guidelines produced by Gateway NI).

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 appointing a relevant person. Please note that all procedures listed are available on request. We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process.

Vision Sports Ireland 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 all staff have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians and members of the public on request.
- Where Vision Sports Ireland are collaborating with a partner NGB, all volunteers should be vetted through that organisation and coaches will have completed safe guarding training.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by Vision Sports Ireland.

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