



## **Vision Sports Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement**

CRO No 20028114, CHY 10793

Date of Issue: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Date of Review: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Date of Next Review: May 2024

Version	Date	Edits	Edits Made By
Version 1.0	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Policy Developed	KM
<b>Adopted by VS Board of Directors on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2021</b>			
Version 2.0	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Updated contact details for National Children's Officer, Safeguarding Officer	SM
<b>Adopted by VS Board of Directors on July 13<sup>th</sup> 2022</b>			
Version 3.0	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Updated Sport Ireland Risk Assessment Template	SM
Version 3.1	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Updated contact details – Sarah Maloney replaced with Rosie Keogh	KM

## **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.

## Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement (CSS)

Risk Assessment (RS) This risk assessment considers the potential for harm to come to children whilst they are in Vision Sports Ireland' care. This risk assessment precedes the Child Safeguarding Statement (Section 11 (1b) Children First Act 2015) which is developed following this risk assessment process. In accordance with the requirements of Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015 (ROI) the risk is of abuse and not general health and safety risk (covered under a separate H&S policy and risk assessment). Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015 (ROI) states that where a person proposes to operate as a provider of a relevant service, he or she shall, within 3 months from the date on which he or she commences as such a provider — Undertake an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of the service (in this section referred to as a “risk”).

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club/Region/ National	Further action required ...
<b>CLUB &amp; COACHING PRACTICES</b>				
Lack of coaching qualification		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteers Policy</li> <li>Recruitment Policy</li> </ul>		Proof of qualification to be confirmed
Supervision issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteer Policy</li> </ul>		Ongoing Review
Unauthorised photography & recording activities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Conduct</li> <li>Safeguarding Level 1</li> <li>Complaints Policy</li> </ul>		Ongoing Review
No guidance for travelling/away trips		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding Policy</li> </ul>		Ongoing Review
Behavioural Issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Conduct</li> <li>Safeguarding Level 1</li> <li>Complaints Policy</li> </ul>		Ongoing Review
Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy (i.e. mobile,		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding Policy</li> <li>Complaints Policy</li> </ul>		Ongoing Review

photography, transport				
<b>COMPLAINTS &amp; DISCIPLINE</b>				
Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/policy</li> <li>Communications Procedure</li> </ul>		Immediate action needed Greater communication required
Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/policy</li> <li>Communications Procedure</li> </ul>		Review the communication/ responsibilities of the procedure/ policy as required
Complaints not being dealt with seriously		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/policy</li> </ul>		Ongoing Review
<b>REPORTING PROCEDURES</b>				
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting Procedures</li> <li>Child Safeguarding Training Level 1</li> </ul>		Include in Safeguarding Training (L1) Publicise names of CCOs, DLPs, MP(s) Publicise internal and external reporting procedures
Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting Procedures</li> <li>Code of Conduct</li> <li>Volunteer Procedures</li> </ul>		Make policies and procedures available Include in Safeguarding Training (L1) Include in Coach Education Training
Not clear who YP should talk to or report to		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Names &amp; Contact details of CCOs, DLPs and MP on website</li> </ul>		Communicate in Club. Include in Safeguarding Training (L1)
<b>FACILITIES</b>				
Unauthorised exit from children's areas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteer Policy</li> </ul>		Clarify responsibilities before session starts
Unauthorised access to designated children's play/ practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteer Policy</li> </ul>		Clarify responsibilities before session starts

Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safeguarding Training</li> <li>- Volunteer Policy</li> </ul>		Enforce policy in private changing and wet areas
Missing or found child on site				Inform Gardai
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safeguarding Policy</li> </ul>		Plan with facilities management to create a suitable child centred environment in shared facilities
<b>RECRUITMENT</b>				
Lack of clarity on roles		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NCBI Recruitment Policy</li> </ul>		Check job description Put supervision in place
Recruitment of inappropriate people		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NCBI Recruitment Policy</li> </ul>		Ongoing review
Unqualified or untrained people in role		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NCBI Recruitment Policy</li> </ul>		Check qualification Ongoing review
<b>COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA</b>				
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child Safeguarding Statement</li> </ul>		Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement
No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>- Code of behaviour</li> </ul>		Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate
Unauthorised photography & recording of activities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safeguarding Training</li> <li>- Volunteer Policy</li> </ul>		Ongoing Review
Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18's		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communications Policy</li> <li>- Code of Conduct</li> </ul>		Ongoing Review
Inappropriate use of social media and communications with under 18's		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communications Policy</li> <li>- Code of Conduct</li> </ul>		Ongoing Review
<b>GENERAL RISK OF HARM</b>				
Harm caused by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- child to child</li> <li>- coach to child - volunteer to child</li> <li>- member to child</li> <li>- visitor to child</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safeguarding policy</li> <li>- Child Safeguarding Training</li> </ul>		Ongoing Review

Harm not being recognised		- Safeguarding Policy - Safeguarding Training		Ongoing Review
General behavioural issues - issues of bullying - vetting of staff/volunteers - issues of online safety		- Code of conduct - Safeguarding Policy - Recruitment policy / vetting policy -		Take disciplinary action where necessary Sign code of conduct

Explanation of terms used:

- Potential risk of harm to children – these are identified risks of harm to children whilst accessing activities in the Club/Region/Province/NGB.
- Likelihood of harm happening – the likelihood of the risk occurring in the club/region/NGB measured by you as Low/Medium or High.
- Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document – indication of the policy required to alleviate the risk.
- Responsibility – provider should indicate where the responsibility for alleviating the risk lies.
- Further action... - indicates further action that might be necessary to alleviate any risk ongoing. This Risk Assessment document has been discussed and completed by (insert Club/Region/NGB as provider) on 16 /09 /2022

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Rosie Keogh

Role: Operations and Communications Coordinator

Date: 4/5/2023

**Vision Sports Ireland Child Safeguarding Officer**

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