



Vision Sports Ireland Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Statement

CRO No 20028114, CHY 10793

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Date of Next Review: May 2024

Version	Date	Edits	Edits Made By
Version 1.0	17 th February 2021	Policy Developed	KM
Adopted by VS Board of Directors on March 10th 2021			
Version 2.0	23 rd June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spelling errors corrected - Notes added where appendix was missing - Contact details for Safeguarding Officers added - Links to Sport Ireland/HSE Safeguarding Policies - Safeguarding Policy Produced 	KM
Adopted by VS Board of Directors on July 13th 2022			
Version 3.0	17 th May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated contact details from Sarah Maloney to Rosie Keogh 	KM

Vision Sports Ireland Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Statement

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.

For the purposes of this statement “**Vision Sports Ireland Leaders**” refers to any person, including full time and part time staff, volunteers, coaches, contracted instructors, persons on work experience, work schemes or placement, board/committee members who have direct contact with children while providing programmes and events.

Vision Sports Ireland is committed to the safeguarding of vulnerable persons from abuse. It acknowledges that all adults have the right to be safe and to live a life free from abuse. All persons are entitled to this right, regardless of their circumstances. It is the responsibility of all service providers, statutory and non-statutory, to ensure that, service users are treated with respect and dignity, have their welfare promoted and receive support in an environment in which every effort is made to promote welfare and to prevent abuse.

Vision Sports Ireland unequivocally commits to a ‘**No Tolerance**’ approach to any form of abuse and the promotion of a culture which supports this ethos.

A core governance responsibility of Vision Sports Ireland is to ensure that safeguarding policies and procedures and associated practices are in place and appropriate to the services provided.

- **Integrity in relationships** – Vision Sports Ireland Leaders interacting with vulnerable adults in sport are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that participants are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of participants is enhanced.
- **Fair Play** - All participants in 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** – Vision Sports Ireland events 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.
- **Equality** - All participants 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 participants have a vision impairment and we are committed to ensuring that Vision Sports Ireland Leaders understand that this can create a vulnerability that should uphold the participants dignity at all times.

Procedures in place for the management of abuse or misconduct by Vision Sports Ireland Leaders staff include:

- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with participants in our activities.
- Procedures for access to safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for reporting of abuse.

Vision Sports Ireland is committed to the implementation of this Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep participants safe from harm while availing of our activities.

Please note the following:

- That all Vision Sports Ireland Leaders have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
 - This statement is available to Participants, parents/guardians and members of the public on request.
 - Where Vision Sports Ireland are collaborating with a partner NGB, all volunteers should be vetted though that organisation and coaches will have completed the required level of safeguarding training.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by Vision Sports Ireland. This Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 28th February 2023.

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