F CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT – 2022

Offaly Community Games

Section 1 – Community Games

Offaly Community Games provides various sporting activities and opportunities for young people through participation in areas, counties, regional/provincial events and through our national finals twice per year.

- Name: **Offaly Community Games**
- Sport: Multi Sport
- Location: Co. Offaly
- Size: Offaly Community Games have children actively participating on an annual basis thru its affiliated Areas.
- Activities: The activities are divided into two categories - individual and team. Individual events include Art, Model Making, Cycling, Gymnastics, Swimming, Athletics track and field events- specifically Shot Putt, Discus, Javelin, Hurdles, Ball Throw, Long Jump and Cycling. Team events include Badminton, Basketball, Camogie, Chess, Choir, Draughts, Debating, Futsal, Gaelic Football, Handball, Hurling, Rounders, Rugby, Tag Rugby, Soccer (Indoor & Outdoor), Spikeball, Table Tennis, Table Quiz, Pitch & Putt, Variety and Talent Events! We offer any events where there are Adults willing to Coach and Train Children.

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

Offaly Community Games is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our *National Governing Body* Safeguarding Policies volunteers, working with our young people throughout the Area seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport. The following set of principles should be adhered to:

- **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.

Section 3 - Risk Assessment

This Offaly Community Games written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents require to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Club and Coaching Practices	
— Lack of coaching qualification.	— Coach education policy/Volunteer Recruitment policy.
— Supervision issues at County Organised events.	— Supervision policy/Coach education policy
— Unauthorised photography & recording activities.	— Filming and Photography policy / Social Media Policy
— Behavioural Issues.	— Code of Conduct / Safeguarding 1 / Complaints & Disciplinary policy.
— Lack of gender balance amongst Volunteers at County Organised Events	— Coach education policy / Supervision policy. — Travel/Away trip policy / Child Safeguarding Training.
— Risk to Children through failure to implement guidance for travelling and away trips	— Safeguarding Policy / Complaints & Disciplinary Policy
— Lack of adherence with miscellaneous procedures in Safeguarding policy	
Complaints & Discipline	
— Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy.	— Complaints & Disciplinary Policy
— Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent	— Complaints & Disciplinary Policy —
— Complaints not being dealt with seriously	— Complaints & Disciplinary Policy.

Reporting Procedures	
— Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures	— Reporting procedures/policy / Coach Education policy / Code of Conduct/Behaviour.
— No DLP appointed.	— Reporting procedures/policy.
— Concerns of abuse or harm not reported.	— Reporting procedures/policy / Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1
— Not clear who YP should talk to or report to.	— Post the names of CCO, DLP and Mandated person.
Use of Facilities	
— Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.	— Supervision policy / Coach Education.
— Unauthorised exit from children's areas.	— Supervision policy / Coach Education.
— Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas.	— Filming and Photography policy and use of devices in private zones.
— Missing or found child on site.	— Missing or found child policy.
— Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc…	— Safeguarding policy.
Recruitment	
— Recruitment of inappropriate people.	— Volunteer Recruitment policy/Vetting Policy
— Lack of clarity on roles.	— Volunteer Recruitment policy.
— Unqualified or untrained people in role.	— Volunteer Recruitment policy.
Communications	
— Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors.	— Child Safeguarding Statement / Training Policy.
— No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members of visitors.	— Child Safeguarding Statement (display) / Code of Behaviour (distribute).

— Unauthorised photography & recording of activities.	— Filming and Photography policy / Social Media Policy
— Inappropriate use of social media & communications by under 18's	— Communications policy / Code of conduct/ Social Media Policy
— Inappropriate use of social media & communications with under 18's.	— Communications policy / Code of conduct/ Social Media policy
— Risk of harm of online abuse through Social Media	— Communications policy/Social Media Policy
General Risk of Harm	
— Harm not being recognised.	— Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training.
— Harm caused by: Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child. Member to Child. Visitor to Child.	— Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training.
— General behavioural issues.	— Code of Conduct.
— Issues of Bullying.	— Anti-Bullying policy.
— Vetting of staff/volunteers.	— Recruitment policy / Vetting policy.
— Issues of Online Safety	— Social Media / Online Safety policy.
— Risk of infection from Covid 19	— Sport specific policies on Social distancing and best practice guidelines for each contact activity.

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 30th Jan 2022

Section 4 – Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been prepared in accordance with the legislative requirements contained in the Children First Act 2015, Children's First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

Community Games have the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- 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 maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.

The Mandated/Relevant Person for *National Governing Body* is ***Donal Gillespie National Children's Officer***.

Contact: safeguarding@communitygames.ie

Mandated Persons within the Area are: (Insert any Mandated persons active within your Area) further information can be obtained from here https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/mandated-persons/am-i-a-mandated-person/

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our Area 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 Volunteers have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, members of the public through Area Community Games website and on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by the Area.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on *Jan 30th 2024*

Signed:	Signed: Sinead Coleman.
Name: Jude Feehan	Name: Sinead Coleman.
Role: *(Chairperson)*	Role: County Children's Officer
Date: 10 /May/ 2022	Date: 10 /03/ 2022.

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the County Children's Officer ().

Contact email: offaly@communitygames.ie.