

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT – 2024

Area Name
Rathvilly

Section 1 – Community Games

Rathvilly 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: **Rathvilly**
- Sport: Multi Sport
- Location: Rathvilly, Co. Carlow
- Size: Rathvilly Community Games have (Insert Adult Volunteer Numbers). Rathvilly Community Games has (approximate number of Children registered per year) children actively participating on an annual basis.
- Activities: The activities are divided into two categories - individual and team. (delete the activities your Area is **Not** actively participating in or likely to be in the next two years) 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 Basketball, Chess, Draughts, Futsal, Gaelic Football, Rounders, Rugby, Tag Rugby, Soccer (Indoor & Outdoor), Table Tennis, Table Quiz, Pitch & Putt, Variety and Talent Events!

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

Rathvilly Community Games is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our *NGB* 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 Rathvilly 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	Procedures in place to manage risks identified
<p>Club and Coaching Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Lack of coaching qualification. — Supervision issues. — Unauthorised photography & recording activities. — Behavioural Issues. — Lack of gender balance amongst coaches — Risk to Children through failure to implement guidance for travelling and away trips — Lack of adherence with miscellaneous procedures in Safeguarding policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Seek coaches with coaching experience and/or qualifications and knowledge of the relevant sport. — All coaches are garda vetted. — Volunteers trained by experienced, garda vetted and safeguarding qualified Area coaches. — Supervision policy as part of code of conduct and parents are expected to stay and supervise their own children. — Seek consent from participants via registration for Filming and Photography and posting on social media. — Follow Code of Conduct and participants expected to sign up on registration — Safeguarding 1 & 2 — Follow Area Complaints & Disciplinary policy.
<p>Complaints & Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy. — Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent. — Complaints not being dealt with seriously. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Follow the Complaints & Disciplinary Policy for the Area and communicated out.
<p>Reporting Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures. — No DLP appointed. — Concerns of abuse or harm not reported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Reporting procedures in place. — Code of Conduct is shared with participants at registration and signed by all volunteers during garda vetting.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Not clear who YP should talk to or report to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — DLP appointed, identified to all participants and trained to Safeguarding 2.
<p>Use of Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Unauthorised access to designated children’s play & practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. — Unauthorised exit from children’s areas. — Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas. — Missing or found child on site. — Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Only have access to practise area, (there are no shared toilets, changing rooms, showers etc...), children are well supervised by coaches and parents are required to remain present during of the training. — Facilities used are fenced in and parents are required to remain with/near children during practise. — Filming and Photography policy. — Gardai informed if child is found on site and parents cannot be located. Parents are responsible for supervising their own child. — Safeguarding policy.
<p>Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Recruitment of inappropriate people. — Lack of clarity on roles. — Unqualified or untrained people in role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Follow volunteer recruitment and vetting policy of National. — All volunteers are garda vetted before engaging with participants. — Volunteers are guided by experienced Area coaches. — Clear delineation between Committee members and volunteer coaches. — Coaching qualifications sought where available.
<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors. — No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members of visitors. — Unauthorised photography & recording of activities. — Inappropriate use of social media & communications by under 18’s. — Inappropriate use of social media & communications with under 18’s. — Risk of harm of online abuse through Social Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Child Safeguarding Statement is communicated to all participants via registration and social media. — Child Safeguarding Statement and Code of Conduct will be available at training sessions. — Filming and Photography policy reviewed and updated as needed and all participants are required to indicate acceptance during registration. — Code of conduct signed by all volunteers during vetting and participants during registration. — Contact details of participants u18 are not collected, only parent/guardian contact details are collected during registration.

<p>General Risk of Harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Harm not being recognised. — Harm caused by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child. Member to Child. Visitor to Child. — General behavioural issues. — Issues of Bullying. — Vetting of staff/volunteers. — Issues of Online Safety — Risk of infection from Covid 19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Follow Safeguarding policy. — Committee members and DLP trained to Safeguarding levels 1 and/or 2. — All volunteers and participants required to sign up to Codes of Conduct. — Multiple garda vetted coaches present at all training sessions. — Parents present at training sessions. — Complaints and Disciplinary policy followed. — All training conducted in person not online. — Follow sport specific policies on social distancing and best practice guidelines for each contact activity as provided by National / County.
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The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 11th January 2024.

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 NGB is **Donal Gillespie National Children’s Officer**.

Contact: safeguarding@communitygames.ie

Mandated Persons within the Area are: Noelle O’Donoghue, 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 *in January 2026*

<p>Signed: </p> <p>Name: <u>Trish Murphy</u></p> <p>Role: Chairperson</p> <p>Date: <u>12 / 01 / 2024</u></p>	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Name: <u>NOELLE BOLGER</u></p> <p>Role: Area Children's Officer</p> <p>Date: <u>12/01/2024</u></p>
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For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the Area Children's Officer Noelle O'Donoghue.

Contact email: *bolger.nell@gmail.com*