

## CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT – 2021

Area Name
Tullamore, Co Offaly

### Section 1 – Community Games

Tullamore 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: Tullamore Co Offaly
- Sport: Multi Sport
- Location: Tullamore, Co Offaly
- Size: Tullamore Community Games have 9. Tullamore Community Games has 150 children actively participating on an annual basis.
- Activities: The activities are divided into two categories - individual and team. Individual events include Art, Model Making, 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, Hurling, Rounders, Rugby, Soccer (Indoor & Outdoor), Table Tennis, Table Quiz, Variety and Talent Events!

### Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

Tullamore 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 Tullamore 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
<p><b>Club and Coaching Practices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of coaching qualification.</li> <li>— Supervision issues.</li> <li>— Unauthorised photography &amp; recording activities.</li> <li>— Behavioural Issues.</li> <li>— Lack of gender balance amongst coaches</li> <li>— Risk to Children through failure to implement guidance for travelling and away trips</li> <li>— Lack of adherence with miscellaneous procedures in Safeguarding policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Coach education policy/Volunteer Recruitment policy.</li> <li>— Supervision policy/Coach education policy</li> <li>— Filming and Photography policy / Social Media Policy</li> <li>— Code of Conduct / Safeguarding 1 / Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy.</li> <li>— Coach education policy / Supervision policy.</li> <li>— Travel/Away trip policy / Child Safeguarding Training.</li> <li>— Safeguarding Policy / Complaints &amp; Disciplinary Policy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Complaints &amp; Discipline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of awareness of a Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy.</li> <li>— Difficulty in raising an issue by child &amp; or parent</li> <li>— Complaints not being dealt with seriously</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Complaints &amp; Disciplinary Policy</li> <li>— Complaints &amp; Disciplinary Policy</li> <li>—</li> <li>— Complaints &amp; Disciplinary Policy.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Reporting Procedures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of knowledge of organisational &amp; statutory reporting procedures</li> <li>— No DLP appointed.</li> <li>— Concerns of abuse or harm not reported.</li> <li>— Not clear who YP should talk to or report to.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Reporting procedures/policy / Coach Education policy / Code of Conduct/Behaviour.</li> <li>— Reporting procedures/policy.</li> <li>— Reporting procedures/policy / Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1</li> <li>— Post the names of CCO, DLP and Mandated person.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Use of Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Unauthorised access to designated children’s play &amp; practice areas &amp; to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.</li> <li>— Unauthorised exit from children’s areas.</li> <li>— Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas.</li> <li>— Missing or found child on site.</li> <li>— Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Supervision policy / Coach Education.</li> <li>— Supervision policy / Coach Education.</li> <li>— Filming and Photography policy and use of devices in private zones.</li> <li>— Missing or found child policy.</li> <li>— Safeguarding policy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recruitment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Recruitment of inappropriate people.</li> <li>— Lack of clarity on roles.</li> <li>— Unqualified or untrained people in role.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Volunteer Recruitment policy/Vetting Policy</li> <li>— Volunteer Recruitment policy.</li> <li>— Volunteer Recruitment policy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors.</li> <li>— No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members of visitors.</li> <li>— Unauthorised photography &amp; recording of activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Child Safeguarding Statement / Training Policy.</li> <li>— Child Safeguarding Statement (display) / Code of Behaviour (distribute).</li> <li>— Filming and Photography policy / Social Media Policy</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Inappropriate use of social media &amp; communications by under 18's</li> <li>— Inappropriate use of social media &amp; communications with under 18's.</li> <li>— Risk of harm of online abuse through Social Media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Communications policy / Code of conduct/ Social Media Policy</li> <li>— Communications policy / Code of conduct/ Social Media policy</li> <li>— Communications policy/Social Media Policy</li> </ul>
<p><b>General Risk of Harm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Harm not being recognised.</li> <li>— Harm caused by: Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child. Member to Child. Visitor to Child.</li> <li>— General behavioural issues.</li> <li>— Issues of Bullying.</li> <li>— Vetting of staff/volunteers.</li> <li>— Issues of Online Safety</li> <li>— Risk of infection from Covid 19</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training.</li> <li>— Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training.</li> <li>— Code of Conduct.</li> <li>— Anti-Bullying policy.</li> <li>— Recruitment policy / Vetting policy.</li> <li>— Social Media / Online Safety policy.</li> <li>— Sport specific policies on Social distancing and best practice guidelines for each contact activity.</li> </ul>

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

## 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](mailto: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 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Signed: <u>Verona Smith</u>	Signed: <u>Carmel McGreal</u>
Name: <u>Verona Smith</u>	Name: CARMELMCGREAL
Role: (Chairperson) <u>Chairperson</u>	Role: Area Children's Officer
Date: <u>19/4/21</u>	Date: 13/04/2021

*For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the Area Children's Officer Carmel McGreal*

*Contact email: [carmelmcgreal@yahoo.ie](mailto:carmelmcgreal@yahoo.ie)*

## SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT – 2021

### Area Name

Tullamore Co Offaly

*Children First Act 2015* requires that a Risk Assessment be carried out in relation to the potential for harm and abuse that could come to children while they are in our care and attending activities within our organisation.

*Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015* 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—

- (a) Undertake an assessment of any potential for harm to a child (whilst in our care)
- (b) Community Games affiliated Areas are required to display a Child Safeguarding Statement (Section 11 (1b))

Please note that in accordance with the requirements of Section 11 (1) the risk assessment is the risk of abuse to a child and not general health and safety risk.

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L=M=H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Area/County/National	Further action required ...
<b>CLUB &amp; COACHING PRACTICES</b>				
Lack of coaching qualification	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coach education policy</li> <li>▪ Recruitment policy</li> </ul>	NGB Area	<i>Proof of qualification to be confirmed</i>
Supervision issues	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supervision policy</li> <li>▪ Coach education policy</li> </ul>	NGB Area	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Unauthorised photography & recording activities	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Filming and Photography policy</li> </ul>	NGB Area	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Behavioural Issues	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Code of Conduct</li> </ul>	Area	<i>Ongoing review</i>

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Area/Country/National	Further action required ...
Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Safeguarding Level 1 (min)</li> <li>▪ Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy</li> <li>▪ Coach education policy</li> <li>▪ Supervision policy</li> </ul>	Area	<i>Ongoing review</i>
No guidance for travelling and away trips	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Travel/Away trip policy within Child Protection Policy</li> <li>▪ Child Safeguarding Training</li> </ul>	NGB Area	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy (i.e. mobile, photography, transport)	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Safeguarding policy</li> <li>▪ Complaints &amp; disciplinary policy</li> </ul>	Area	<i>Ongoing review</i>
<b>COMPLAINTS &amp; DISCIPLINE</b>				
Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/policy</li> <li>▪ Communications procedure</li> </ul>	Area	<i>Immediate action needed Greater communication required</i>
Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent Reason: Covered above	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/policy</li> <li>▪ Communications procedure</li> </ul>	Area	<i>Review the communication/responsibilities of the procedure/policy as required</i>
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/policy</li> </ul>	Area	<i>Ongoing review</i>



Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Area/County/National	Further action required ...
<b>REPORTING PROCEDURES</b>				
Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting procedures/policy</li> <li>Coach education policy</li> <li>Code of Conduct /Behaviour</li> </ul>	NGB Mandated Person DLP	<i>Make policies and procedures available</i> <i>Include in Safeguarding Training (L1)</i> <i>Include in Coach Education Training</i>
No Mandated Person appointed	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting procedures/policy</li> </ul>	NGB	<b>This is the National Children's Officer or CEO in absence of NCO</b>
No DLP Appointed	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting procedures/policy</li> </ul>	NGB Area	<i>DLP must attend Safeguarding 2</i> <i>Publicise identity of DLP</i>
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting procedures/policy</li> <li>Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1</li> </ul>	Mandated Person DLP	<i>Attend Safeguarding Training</i> <i>Publicise names of ACOs, DLPs, Mandated Person</i> <i>Publicise internal and external reporting procedures</i>
Not clear who young people should talk to or report to	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post the names of Area COs, DLPs and Mandated Person</li> </ul>	Area CO DLP	<i>Communicate within the Area</i> <i>Include in Safeguarding Training</i>
<b>FACILITIES</b>				
Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision policy</li> <li>Coach education</li> </ul>	NGB Area	<i>Clarify responsibilities before session starts</i>
Unauthorised exit from children's areas	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision policy</li> <li>Coach education</li> </ul>	Area	<i>Clarify responsibilities before session starts</i>

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Area/County/National	Further action required ...
Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Filming and Photography policy and use of devices in private zones</li> </ul>	NGB Area	Enforce policy in private changing and wet areas
Missing or found child on site	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Missing Children Protocol</li> </ul>	Area	Refer to policy and inform Gardai
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Safeguarding policy</li> <li>▪ Supervision Policy</li> </ul>	Area	Plan with facilities management to create a suitable child centred environment in shared facilities
<b>RECRUITMENT</b>				
Recruitment of inappropriate people	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recruitment policy</li> </ul>	NGB Area Area CO Appropriate personnel	Ongoing review
Lack of clarity on roles	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recruitment policy</li> </ul>	Area	Check job description Put supervision in place
Unqualified or untrained people in role	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recruitment policy</li> </ul>	Area	Check qualification Ongoing review
<b>COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA</b>				
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>▪ Training policy</li> </ul>	NGB Area DLP/Area CO	Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement
No communication of	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child Safeguarding</li> </ul>	Area Executive	Communicate Child Safeguarding

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Area/County/National	Further action required ...
Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Conduct to members or visitors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statement – display</li> <li>Code of Behaviour - distribute</li> </ul>	County Executive DLP/ Areas CO	Statement Distribute Code
Unauthorised photography & recording of activities	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Filming and Photography Policy</li> </ul>	Area	Ongoing review
Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18's	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Media policy</li> <li>Code of conduct</li> </ul>	Area Area CO	Ongoing review
Inappropriate use of social media and communications with under 18's	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communications policy</li> <li>Code of conduct</li> </ul>	Area Area CO	Ongoing review
<b>GENERAL RISK OF HARM</b>				
Harm not being recognised	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding policy</li> <li>Child Safeguarding Training</li> </ul>	Area	Ongoing review
Harm caused by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>child to child</li> <li>coach to child</li> <li>volunteer to child</li> <li>member to child</li> <li>visitor to child</li> </ul>	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safeguarding policy</li> <li>Child Safeguarding Training</li> </ul>	NGB Area Area Children's Officer	Ongoing review
General behavioural issues	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Conduct</li> </ul>	Area Area Children's Officer	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 Area
- **Likelihood of harm happening** – the likelihood of the risk occurring in the Area 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
- **Safeguarding Policy** – Codes of Practice and Safeguarding Policies and Procedures <https://www.communitygames.ie/childrens-officer.html>
- **ACO: Area Children's Officer** (also undertakes the role of Designated Liaison Person)
- **Relevant Person:** Person responsible for information about the Safeguarding Statement in the Area. This role is assigned to the Area Children's Officer.
- **Mandated Person:** Mandated persons are people who have contact with children and/or families who, by virtue of their qualifications, training and experience, are in a key position to help protect children from harm. Further details on Mandated Persons can be sourced here <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/mandated-persons/am-i-a-mandated-person/> or by contacting Community Games National Children's Officer on [safeguarding@communitygames.ie](mailto:safeguarding@communitygames.ie)

This Risk Assessment document has been discussed and completed by Tullamore on 13/04/2021

<p>Signed: <u><i>Verona Smyth</i></u></p> <p>Name: <u>VERONA SMYTH</u></p> <p>Role: (Chairperson) <u>Chairperson</u></p> <p>Date: <u>13/04/21</u></p>	<p>Signed: <u><i>Carmel McGreal</i></u></p> <p>Name: <u>CARMEL MCGREAL</u></p> <p>Role: Area Children's Officer</p> <p>Date: <u>13/04/2021</u></p>
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