

Safeguarding Risk Assessment of Harm

2026

Abbreviations	For clarity and consistency, the following terms are used in this Risk Assessment of Harm **Adult:** Anyone over 18 years of age. In this Risk Assessment 'adult' includes Scouters, Scouters with Additional needs other volunteers and staff of Scouting Ireland and any other adult who has contact with a child during scouting activities. **Child/Children** refers to anyone under 18 years of age including children with additional needs In this Risk Assessment the terms child, children, beavers, cubs, scouts, venturers or youth members all refer to children who receive the Youth Programme of Scouting Ireland. **Scouting Activities:** In this Risk Assessment 'scouting activities' refers to all activities being delivered by Scouters and other adults or where the children are in the care of Scouters or other adults indoors and outdoors, at home and abroad. Scouting activities includes activities by beaver, cub, scout & venturer sections. **Code of Behaviour: Code of Behaviour to Assist adults engaging with children in scouting** refers to **Scouting Ireland's Code of Behaviour:** This is the guidance document for all scouters to provide a common understanding of the behaviours and practices expected of all scouters. By adhering to the best practice and human rights-based approach described in the document it will ensure a standardised approach by all leaders. This guide also helps inform children and parents of the behaviours and practices they can expect from scouters. Important for scouters to remember their Scout Law and Promise in everything they do. **CS/CPPP** refers to **Scouting Ireland's Child Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies & Procedures:** This extensive document describes the roles and responsibilities of all scouters in relation to safeguarding children, including preventing abuse or harm to children, and understanding their roles and responsibilities when abuse is suspected or disclosed. It instructs and guides scouters in the procedures to be followed and who to contact if concerns arise. It describes the selection and recruitment process for new scouters and provides a range of other information in relation to allegations, legal responsibilities, confidentiality, best practice and the role of the Safeguarding Team in Scouting Ireland.

Potential risk of harm & abuse to children	Likelihood of it happening Rate as L/M/H	Rationale for the Risk Rating chosen. Outline Scouting Ireland policy/procedure that applies	Who's responsible?	Further Action Required at Group Level
Risk 1 - A child being harmed, or at risk of harm, during Scouting activities				
Harm caused by: - Child to child - Scouter to child - Visitor to child		CS/CPPP Section 12 & Appendix 1 Safeguarding Training Code of Behaviour Ratio Policy No 3 Sept 2025	All Scouters	*Contact Safeguarding Team in National Office for Support*
Bullying of a child		CS/CPP section 4.4 SI Anti Bullying Guidelines & Poster NYCI Lets Beat Bullying Tusla_CSS_Anti-Bullying	All Scouters Make poster available on website	*Ensure all scouters are familiar with the documents* *Normally dealt with by group leadership* *Contact Safeguarding Team in National Office for Support*
Recruitment of inappropriate people		CS/CPPP Ref: Section 8 Vetting Policies	Group Council / Group Leader	*Review on an ongoing basis*
Unqualified Adults in roles & Failure to provide information, instruction and training to Scouting Ireland Personnel		CS/CPPP Ref: Section 8 & Section 9 Recruitment & Training Membership Policy; BOD-MA-001	Scouting Ireland National Office Group Leader/Group Trainer	*Ensure relevant information, instruction & training is provided to all SI Personnel.* *Review on an ongoing basis*
Scouters not trained adequately for overnight activities		CS/CPPP Code of Behaviour The Wood badge Training /Pathway	Group Leader, Section Team Leads and all Scouters	*All Scouters must have completed Being a Scouter training, at least* *1 Scouter must have completed the Overnights Module and at least* *1 Scouter must have. completed the Youth Led Programme training*
Failure to deal appropriately with a Member of Scouting Ireland who is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstances in respect of a child		CS/CPPP Section 5	All Scouters National Office / CEO / Volunteer & Group Support Manager Safeguarding Team	*Ensure all personnel are aware of SI Policy and Procedures* *Breaches of all Scouting Ireland Policy and Procedures will be dealt with through the disciplinary channels*

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Recommended and appropriate supervision ratios not met		Code of Behaviour: pgs. 7 to 10 SID-YP05 - Camping and Adventures in the Out of Doors Policy Membership Policy BOD- MA-001 Ratio Policy No 3 Sept 2025 Journey to Scouting Policy	Group Leader, Section Team Leads and all Scouters	*Recruitment campaign* *Scouters must plan to ensure appropriate ratios are met for all meetings / activities. Plan for availability of extra and/or reserve Scouters* *Any adult facilitating must have vetting, and Safeguarding training* *BAS and or On my Honour completed this will include Rovers and Adult Supports*
Garda Vetting / Access NI Vetting not complete for all adults		CS/CPPP Garda Vetting Policy SID39B/10	Group Leader	*Ensure relevant forms are completed, references checked and no further interaction until clear Garda.* */ Access NI vetting completed.* ***Scouters must not partake in any scout activity until their vetting has been processed.*** *Re vetting for all scouters every 3 yrs.*
No Safeguarding Training completed and or no refresher training completed		CS/CPP Section 9 Code of Behaviour	Group Leader / Group Trainer	*Book Scouter on Being a Scouter course and ensure no further interaction until Being A Scouter training is completed.* *Ensure all scouters complete the On my Honour training every 3 yrs.*
Unauthorised access to scouts' changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.		Code of Behaviour	Group Leader / Section Team Leads / All Scouters	*Clarify responsibilities before activity starts*
Scouts sharing facilities with adults e.g., toilets, showers. etc.		Code of Behaviour	Group Leader / Section Team Leads / All Scouters	*Plan with facilities management to create a suitable child centred environment in shared facilities*
Inadequate Sleeping Facilities		Code of Behaviour: SID-YP05 - Camping and Adventures in the Out of Doors Policy SID-YP06 Guidelines	Group Leader, Section Team Leads and all Scouters	*Reconsider holding activity or changing location.* *Need to ensure you observe Scouting Ireland Safeguarding Policy*

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Risk 2 - Scouting Ireland personnel fail to recognise harm or a risk of harm				
Harm to a child not being recognised by Scouting Ireland personnel		CS/CPPP Safeguarding Training Journey to Scouting Policy	All Scouters	*All scouters have training in safeguarding, including identifying the occurrence or risk of harm, and have undertaken their safeguarding On My Honour every 3 years. All Scouters familiarise themselves with the documents listed. Contact Safeguarding Team in National Office for Support*
Failure to recognise Bullying of a child		CS/CPP section 4.4 SI Anti Bullying Guidelines & Poster NYCI Lets Beat Bullying Tusla_CSS_Anti-Bullying.	All Scouters	*All scouters have training in safeguarding, including identifying the occurrence or risk of harm, and have undertaken their safeguarding training every 3 years. Ensure all scouters are familiar with the document. Bullying is normally dealt with by Group leadership. Contact Safeguarding Team in National Office for Support*
Failure to deal appropriately with a Member of Scouting Ireland who is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstances in respect of a child		CS/CPPP Section 5	All Scouters National Office / CEO Volunteer & Group Support Manager Safeguarding Team	*Ensure all personnel are aware of SI Policy and Procedures* *Breaches of all Scouting Ireland Policy and Procedures will be dealt with through the disciplinary channels and/or Safeguarding Risk Assessments.*
Poor behaviour by Scouters with Young People		Code of Behaviour Information Sheet for Scouters / SI Personnel	Group Leader, Section Team Leads and all Scouters	*Discuss with relevant Scouter and talk to Group Leader. Consider seeking advice also from the Safeguarding Team in National Office*

Risk 3 - Scouting Ireland Personnel fail to Report Harm or a Risk of Harm				
Failure to Report Abuse		CS/CPPP Ref Section 4.7, 4.8, 4.11 and Section 11	All scouters Safeguarding Team National Office	*Seek advice from the Safeguarding Department in relation to any concern you may have. Don't discuss the concern with other Scouters.*
Child abuse and welfare concerns not reported		CS/CPPP: Ref Section 4 & Appendix 1 Safeguarding Training Child Safeguarding Statement	Safeguarding Team Group Leader/ Section team leads/All Scouters	*Make policies and procedures available to all volunteers, Parents and children. Organise refresher Training with National Office. Publicise information on Scouting Irelands Reporting process. Display Safeguarding statement in prominent place. Publicise internal and external reporting procedures. Seek advice from Safeguarding Department in relation to any concern you may have.*

Potential risk of harm & abuse to children	Likelihood of it happening Rate as L/M/H	Rationale for the Risk Rating chosen. Outline Scouting Ireland policy/procedure that applies	Who's responsible?	Further Action Required at Group Level
No organisational reporting procedure within Scout Group		Child Safeguarding Statement Safeguarding On my Honour training CS/CPPP: Ref Section 4		*Make policies and procedures available to all volunteers, Parents and children. On my honour training is available to everyone*
Lack of awareness of reporting procedures (for the reporting of child protection concerns to Safeguarding Department)		CS/CPPP Ref: Reporting Section 4 Safeguarding training Journey to Scouting Policy	Group Leader Group Trainer All Scouters	*Ensure all volunteers receive Safeguarding Training. Ensure all training is current and in date with all scouters. Seek Advice of Safeguarding Team in National Office.* *Make all policies available to Parents, Volunteers and Children*
Lack of knowledge of statutory reporting procedure (for the reporting of child protection concerns)		CS/CPPP: Ref Section 4 & Appendix 1 Safeguarding Training Child Safeguarding Statement	Safeguarding Team Group Leader/ Section team leads/All Scouters	*Ensure all volunteers receive Safeguarding Training.* *Publicise information on Scouting Irelands Reporting Process Display Safeguarding statement in prominent place. Publicise internal and external reporting procedures. Make policies and procedures available to all volunteers, Parents and children.*
Non-Safeguarding concerns – Lack of awareness of general complaints procedure General complaints not being dealt with efficiently		Scouting Ireland Website SID-CCD01: Complaints, Conflict and Disciplinary	Group Leader Any Adult or Young Person	*Ensure all volunteers are aware of SID-CCD01. Seek Advice from National Office and/or your Provincial Support Officer.*
Risk 4 - Failure to provide information, instruction and/or training to Scouting Ireland Personnel				
No Safeguarding Training completed and or no refresher training completed		CS/CPPP Section 9 Code of Behaviour	Group Leader / Group Trainer	*Book Scouter on Being a Scouter course and ensure no further interaction until Being A Scouter training is completed.* *Ensure all scouters complete safeguarding training every 3 yrs.*

Potential risk of harm & abuse to children	Likelihood of it happening Rate as L/M/H	Rationale for the Risk Rating chosen. Outline Scouting Ireland policy/procedure that applies	Who's responsible?	Further Action Required at Group Level
Young People not aware of Safeguarding and not feeling safe from harm.		Child Safeguarding Statement CS/CPPP Ref Section 4 SI Information Sheet for Children/Young People	Group Leader / Section Team Leads / All Scouters Safeguarding Team National Office	*Make names of Group Leader and Safeguarding Team in National Office known. Communicate this at all levels in Group.* *Display Safeguarding Statement in prominent place.* *Ensure all youth members and their parents have a copy of the SI information sheets.* *Make all young people aware about speaking to an adult they trust.*
Lack of knowledge of statutory reporting procedure (for the reporting of child protection concerns) Concerns of child abuse not reported		CS/CPPP: Ref Section 4 & Appendix 1 Safeguarding Training Child Safeguarding Statement	Safeguarding Team Group Leader/ Section team leads/All Scouters	*Make policies and procedures available to all volunteers, Parents and children. Organise refresher Training with National Office.* *Publicise information on Scouting Irelands Reporting process.* *Display Child Safeguarding Statement in prominent place. Publicise internal and external reporting procedures*
Scouters with a lack of training and information about social networks and unable to assist youth members Ensuring safeguarding risks are eliminated for scouters and scouts		Seek training for scouters Encourage scouters to speak to the scouts Scouters create dummy accounts to educate themselves Scouters undertake safeguarding training Code of Conduct for online activities developed Social Media Policy Consent Form	All Scouters All Scouters & Parents	*Look for support and advice from the communications team in scouting Ireland.* *Ensure all scouters have safeguarding training complete. Ensure correct controls are in place.*

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No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors		Child Safeguarding Statement CS/CPPP Code of Behaviour	Group Leader & Group Council	*Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate Display appropriately at all times. Outdoor hardcopy or electronic version*
No role description or inadequate role descriptions		CS/CPPP Ref: Section 8, Section 10 & Section 2 Recruitment Code of Behaviour Membership Policy; BOD-MA-001	Group Council / Group leader	*Check job description. Put appropriate supervision in place. Make membership policy available to scouters & parents*
Lack of awareness of reporting procedures (for the reporting of child protection concerns)		CS/CPPP Ref: Reporting Section 4	Group Leader Group Trainer	*Immediate action required to highlight section Organise refresher Training with National Office Seek Advice of Safeguarding Team in National Office. Make all policies available to Parents, Volunteers and Children*
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors		Child Safeguarding Statement CS/CPPP Risk Assessment of Harm document	Group Leader / Section Team Leads / All Scouters All Scouters Parents or Any Outside Personnel	*Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk assessment of Harm*
Risk 5 - Failure to Observe Scouting Ireland's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures				
Failure to deal appropriately with a Member of Scouting Ireland who is the subject of any investigation in respect of any act, omission or circumstances in respect of a child		CS/CPPP Section 5	All Scouters National Office / CEO /MSFGS Safeguarding Team	*Ensure all personnel are aware of SI Policy and Procedures Breaches of all Scouting Ireland Policy and Procedures will be dealt with through the disciplinary channels*

Potential risk of harm & abuse to children	Likelihood of it happening Rate as L/M/H	Rationale for the Risk Rating chosen. Outline Scouting Ireland policy/procedure that applies	Who's responsible?	Further Action Required at Group Level
Unauthorised access to scouts' changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.		Code of Behaviour:	Group Leader / Section Team Leads / All Scouters	*Clarify responsibilities before activity starts, ensure safeguarding policies are adhered to in relation to supervision of the activity and venue*
Scouts sharing facilities with adults e.g., toilets, showers. etc.		Code of Behaviour	Group Leader / Section Team Leads / All Scouters	*Plan with facilities management to create a suitable child centred environment in shared facilities*
Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas		Code of Behaviour: Social Media Policy BOD_IC_001 Activity Consent Form SIF 11/05 09/18	All Scouters	*Enforce policy in private changing areas. Seek advise if unsure from the Data protection Officer of SI and the Safeguarding department*
Failing to abide with Scouting Ireland policies by any adult volunteer or member of staff		Code of Behaviour: CS/CPPP &Procedures Section 11	Adult Volunteers CEO/All Staff in Scouting Ireland	*Ensure that all scouters and Staff are familiar with Scouting Ireland's policies in this regard.* *Seek advice from Safeguarding Team in National Office* *Failure to abide by Scouting Irelands Policy and Procedures will lead to a disciplinary situation*
Failure to Report Abuse		CS/CPPP Ref Section 4.7, 4.8, 4.11 and Section 11	All scouters Safeguarding Team National Office	*Seek advice from the Safeguarding Department in relation to any concern you may have.*
Breach of Confidentiality in relation to a safeguarding matter		CS/CPPP Ref Section 6 & Section 11 Scouter Information Sheet	All Scouters Safeguarding Team National Office	*Contact Safeguarding Department only in relation to any disclosures or concerns relating to child abuse or child welfare issues.* *Any breaches of confidentiality in relation to a safeguarding matter may result in a disciplinary action*

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Non-Safeguarding concerns – Lack of awareness of general complaints procedure General complaints not being dealt with efficiently		Scouting Ireland Website SID-CCD01: Complaints, Conflict and Disciplinary	Group Leader Any Adult or Young Person	*Ensure all volunteers are aware of SID-CCD01. Seek Advice from National Office and/or your Provincial Support Officer.*
Scouters not trained adequately for overnight activities		CS/CPPP Code of Behaviour The Wood badge Training /Pathway	Group Leader, Section Team Leads and all Scouters	*All Scouters must have completed Being a Scouter training, at least 1 Scouter must have completed the Overnights Module and at least 1 Scouter must have. completed the Youth Led Programme training*
Poor behaviour by Scouters with Young People		Code of Behaviour Information Sheet for Scouters / SI Personnel	Group Leader, Section Team Leads and all Scouters	*Discuss with relevant Scouter and talk to Group Leader. Consider seeking advice also from the Safeguarding Team in National Office*
Risk 6 - A child being harmed, or at risk of harm, during online Scouting activities				
Risk of online abuse of a child		CS/CPPP section 4.4 BOD_IC_001 Social Media Policy	All Scouters	*Contact Safeguarding Team in National Office for Support*

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Scouters with a lack of training and information about social networks and unable to assist youth members Ensuring safeguarding risks are eliminated for scouters and scouts		Seek training for scouters Encourage scouters to speak to the scouts Scouters create dummy accounts to educate themselves Scouters undertake safeguarding training Code of Conduct for online activities developed Social Media Policy Consent Form	All Scouters All Scouters & Parents	*Look for support and advice from the communications team in scouting Ireland* *Ensure all scouters have safeguarding training complete. Ensure correct controls are in place.*
Unauthorised / Inappropriate photography, recording etc.		Social Media Policy BOD_IC_001 Activity Consent Form SIF 11/05 09/18 Code of Behaviour	Section Team Lead, Group Leader & Group Council & All scouters	*Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate*
Risk due to underage member inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones, and other devices whilst on Scout activities		Social Media Policy BOD_IC_001 Group/section code of conducts Their Scout Law & Promise Anti-Bulling Guidelines	All Scouters	*Contact Safeguarding Team in National Office for Support* "Scouts are Respectful. They care for themselves and for others."

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Risk caused by Adults communicating with underage members in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device, in their behaviour or approach		Social Media Policy BOD_IC_001 CS/CPPP Code of Behaviour Group Code of Conduct for Scouters Your Scout Law & Promise	All Scouters	*Contact Safeguarding Team in National Office for Support Scouters ensure their devices are always secured.* *Scouters must also have courage to challenge the behaviour of fellow scouters where appropriate.* *Quotes from your promise and law "A Scout is to be trusted. A Scout has respect for self and others. "On my honour I promise that I will do my best" "A Scout has courage in all difficulties".*
Youth Members with Additional needs who require additional supports		Code of Behaviour Ratio Policy Group Code of Conduct for Scouters Activity Consent Form SIF 11/05 09/18	Group Leader/All scouters/Parents or Guardians	*Open communications with parents around the needs* *Seek advice and support from the Safeguarding Team/Neurodiverse team of SI where necessary* *Seek external advice also on the needs of the child with the parental consent.*
Youth members who turn 18 and do not have the capacity to complete safeguarding training due to their additional needs		Safeguarding Adults at Risk Ratio Policy No 3 Sept 2025	Group Leader/Scouter in charge/Safeguarding Team	*Assess that the member does not have a supervisory role and that their needs are also considered. Include them in the child / adult ratio to ensure they are supported also to enjoy scouting.*

This Risk Assessment Procedure was discussed at the

Name: _____

Position Group Leader

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Group Council of Scouting Ireland

Name: _____

Position Group Secretary

Signed: _____

Date: _____