

## SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT – 2026

| Area Name |
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**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>  |                                    |  |                                     |   |
| <b>Lack of coaching qualification</b> | M                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coach education policy</li> <li>▪ Recruitment policy</li> </ul> |                                     | Proof of qualification to be confirmed<br><i>Youth Officer to monitor coaching qualifications</i><br><i>Encourage uptake of online training via the Community Games website</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>Supervision issues</b>                                  | M                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision policy</li> <li>Coach education policy</li> <li>All coaches and support to be vetted in line with national policy</li> </ul> |                                     | Ongoing review and ensure ratio is correct<br><i>Ensure vetting is followed</i>                       |
| <b>Unauthorised photography &amp; recording activities</b> | M                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Filming and Photography policy</li> <li>Consent form for every children involves</li> </ul>  |                                     | Ongoing reminders to volunteers and enforcement of policy<br>Consent forms filled out for every child |
| <b>Behavioural Issues</b>                                  | M                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Conduct</li> <li>Safeguarding Level 1 (min)</li> <li>Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy</li> </ul>                             |                                     | Ongoing review and refresher training   |
| <b>Lack of gender balance amongst coaches</b>              | L                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coach education policy</li> <li>Supervision policy</li> <li>There is a mix of both genders on the committee</li> </ul>                   |                                     | Ongoing review  |

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| <b>No guidance for travelling and away trips</b> | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel/Away trip policy within Child Protection Policy</li> <li>Child Safeguarding Training</li> </ul> |  | Ensure parents and volunteers are briefed in advance |
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| 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>Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Child Protection Policy (i.e. mobile, photography, transport)</b> | M                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child Protection Policy</li> <li>Complaints &amp; disciplinary policy</li> </ul>  |                                     | Policy to be shared in pre-season meeting  |
| <b>COMPLAINTS &amp; DISCIPLINE</b>   |                                    |  |                                     |  |
| <b>Lack of awareness of a Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy</b>   | M                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/policy</li> <li>Communications procedure</li> </ul>   |                                     | Clarify reporting lines in posters or handbooks<br><i>Adherence to National Policies</i> |
| <b>Difficulty in raising an issue by child &amp; or parent<br/>Reason: Covered above</b>                       | M                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/policy</li> <li>Communications procedure</li> <li>Availability of Children's Officer</li> </ul> |                                     | Regular training and open channels for follow-up   |

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| <b>Complaints not being dealt with seriously</b>                              | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/policy</li> </ul>   |  | Include in Level 1 training and coach briefings<br>Adherence to Safeguarding |
| <b>REPORTING PROCEDURES</b>   |   |  |  |  |
| <b>Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures</b> | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting procedures/policy</li> <li>Coach education policy</li> <li>Code of Conduct / Behaviour</li> </ul> |  | Appoint and train local DLP, publish name<br>Adherence to Safeguarding       |

| <b>Potential risk of harm to children</b>     | <b>Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H</b> | <b>Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document</b>  | <b>Responsibility Area/County/National</b> | <b>Further action required ...</b>                      |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <b>No Mandated Person appointed</b>           | M   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting procedures/policy</li> </ul>  |  | Ongoing awareness and named contact. Appointment of DLP |
| <b>No DLP Appointed</b>                       | M   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting procedures/policy</li> </ul>  |  | Ensure visibility at events and registration            |
| <b>Concerns of abuse or harm not reported</b> | M   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting procedures/policy</li> <li>Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1</li> </ul> |  | Define access zones and signage                         |

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| <b>Not clear who young people should talk to or report to</b>  | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post the names of Area COs, DLPs and Mandated Person</li> </ul> |  | Brief coaches and volunteers on gatekeeping          |
| <b>FACILITIES</b>  |   |  |  |  |
| <b>Unauthorised access to designated children's play &amp; practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.</b> | L | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision policy</li> <li>Coach education</li> </ul>          |  | Familiarise team with the steps and report to Gardai |
| <b>Unauthorised exit from children's areas</b>   | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supervision policy</li> <li>Coach education</li> </ul>          |  | Liaise with venues to provide child-only facilities  |

| <b>Potential risk of harm to children</b>                    | <b>Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H</b> | <b>Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document</b>  | <b>Responsibility Area/County/National</b> | <b>Further action required ...</b>         |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas</b> | M   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Filming and Photography policy and use of devices in private zones</li> </ul> |  | Garda vetting, references and review       |
| <b>Missing or found child on site</b>                        | M   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Missing Children Protocol</li> </ul>  |  | Clear job descriptions and task checklists |

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| <b>Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc.</b> | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child Protection Policy</li> <li>▪ Supervision Policy</li> </ul> |  | Check and update training records |
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**RECRUITMENT**

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| <b>Recruitment of inappropriate people</b>     |   |   |  | Remind of digital rules before events    |
| <b>Lack of clarity on roles</b>                | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>▪ Training policy</li> </ul>                                     |  | Zero tolerance policy, monitored closely |
| <b>Unqualified or untrained people in role</b> | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child Safeguarding Statement – display</li> <li>▪ Code of Behaviour</li> <li>▪ - distribute</li> </ul> |  | Refresher training every 2 years         |

**COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

| 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>Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors</b> | <b>M</b>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Code of conduct</li> </ul> |                                     | Implement and enforce conduct rules, follow disciplinary paths |

|  |                                    |   |                                     |  |
|--|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Conduct to members or visitors | L                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communications policy</li> <li>▪ Code of conduct</li> <li>▪ Safeguarding Statement on website</li> </ul> |                                     | Ongoing review   |
| Unauthorised photography & recording of activities   | M                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Code of conduct</li> <li>▪ Filming and Photography Policy</li> <li>▪ Parental Consent Form</li> </ul>    |                                     | Ongoing review   |
| Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18's                         | M                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child Protection Policy</li> <li>▪ Child Safeguarding Training</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>                     |                                     | Ongoing review on policies and Implementa4on                     |
| Inappropriate use of social media and communications with under 18's                       | M                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child Protection Policy</li> <li>▪ Child Safeguarding Training</li> </ul>                                |                                     | Ongoing review   |
| <b>GENERAL RISK OF HARM</b>  |                                    |   |                                     |  |
| Harm not being recognised  | M                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child Protection Policy</li> <li>▪ Child Safeguarding Training</li> </ul>                                |                                     | Take disciplinary action where necessary<br>Sign code of conduct |
| 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>Harm caused by</b><br>- child to child<br>- coach to child<br>- volunteer to child<br>- member to child<br>- visitor to child |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Code of Conduct</li> <li>▪ Vetting Procedures followed as per Community Games National Guidelines</li> </ul> |  | <i>Ongoing review</i>  |
| <b>General behavioural issues</b>  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Code of Conduct</li> </ul>   |  | <i>Take disciplinary action where necessary</i><br><i>Sign code of conduct</i> |

**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
- **Child Protection Policy** – Codes of Practice and Safeguarding Policies and Procedures [www.cairncommunitygames.ie/volunteers/policies](http://www.cairncommunitygames.ie/volunteers/policies)
- **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/mandatedpersons/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 *(INSERT NAME)* on */2026*

Signed:

Name:

Role:

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Role:

Date: