

IWA-Sport Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of Service being provided

IWA-Sport National Governing Body provides sporting activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation in local clubs, regional/provincial events and through our national teams. These activities and events are managed by the Management Team, including the Sports Development Officers, a national network of volunteers and oversight is provided by the Director of Sport. The strategic affairs of IWA-Sport are managed by the National Sports Executive Committee who may exercise all such powers of the Irish Wheelchair Association Board. IWA-Sport is committed to ensuring that children and young people are free from harm or abuse when participating in our activities and events.

2. Principles to Safeguarding Children from Harm or Abuse

The safety, welfare and development of children and young people are core objectives and key priorities for IWA-Sport. Everyone in IWA-Sport has a responsibility and duty of care to ensure that each child/young person availing of our events/activities is safe and protected from all types of harm/abuse including but not limited to physical/emotional/sexual abuse or neglect. 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 IWA-Sport.
- **Requirements of the child** - Every child's experience should be guided by what is best for the child. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal requirements of each child and young person that they work with.
- **Integrity in relationships** - Adults interacting with children in IWA-Sport are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that every child is treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of every child and young person in IWA-Sport is enhanced.
- **Fair Play** - All children's activities should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play in IWA-Sport should always be emphasised. Everyone organising and managing children's events/activities must adhere to our guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.
- **Quality atmosphere & ethos** - Children's events/activities must be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.

- **Competition** – Competition in IWA-Sport 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** – Every child and young person must be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

The IWA-Sport Subsidiary Child Safeguarding Statement (CSS) and the policies and procedures outlined below applies to all IWA-Sport employees, volunteers and external contractors/facilitators and any person performing any role or function in, or on behalf of, IWA-Sport. IWA-Sport has a ‘NO TOLERANCE’ approach to any forms of abuse.

3. Risk Assessment

The IWA-Sport Subsidiary CSS has been developed following a safeguarding risk assessment process. The IWA Corporate CSS states the corporate perspective on how the Association prevents harm to children availing of our events and activities and this Subsidiary CSS supports this corporate approach. Table 1.1 outlines the key areas that are subject to the risk assessments and the procedures in place to manage the identified risks.

Table 1.1

	Areas of Risk	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Recruitment and selection	HR Recruitment Policies and Procedures Standard operating procedures setting out clear mandatory requirements for recruiting for children services/activities
2	Induction and training of IWA-Sport personnel working with children	HR Recruitment Policies and Procedures Mandatory Safeguarding Training requirements Standard operating procedures setting clear standards
3	Safeguarding awareness among all IWA personnel	IWA Mandatory Training Policy, Child Protection Policy, Code of Behaviour for Working with Children Standard procedures for implementing policies
4	Communications	Implementation of safeguarding policies, standards and protocols to all key stakeholders Child friendly versions of key policies being made available to every child and their parents Photography Policy, Social Media Policy
5	Complaints	Customer Care Policy including formal procedures for reporting and responding to complaints Training of all personnel to respond to complaints
6	Reporting and responding to safeguarding concerns	Child Protection Policy providing protocol for reporting concerns

		Sharing of information and collaboration with statutory agencies implemented throughout the Child Protection Policy and Procedures Child Protection Policy communicated to all IWA personnel and readily available through IWA Sharepoint system
7	Ensuring Safe Services	Standard operating procedures in place setting out the requirements for working with children including ratios, gender balance, trips and travel, accommodation, use of facilities etc. Code of Behaviour for Working with Children provides clear instruction and guidance for wide range of scenarios Communication processes in place ensuring all personnel are informed of their responsibilities when working with children. Line management function in place ensuring supervision and support of all personnel who work with children.

4. Procedures

IWA-Sport Subsidiary CSS has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015. Our policies and procedures aim to promote safe environments for children and young people; to lessen the potential for risk to arise; and to manage it safely where it does. In addition to the procedures outlined in the IWA-Sport Safeguarding Risk Assessment, the following policies and procedures support our intention to safeguard children in IWA-Sport:

- Recruitment policies and procedures to ensure the recruitment and selection of employees and volunteers who are suitable to work with children, including the IWA Garda Vetting Policy.
- Mandatory Safeguarding Training for all staff incorporating face-to-face and e-learning programmes.
- HR Policies and Procedures to investigate an allegation of abuse or misconduct made against employees or volunteers.
- Child Protection Policy and Procedure outlining the recognition and reporting procedures.
- Health and Safety Policy and Procedure to ensure all risks are identified and controlled to reduce the likelihood and impact of accidents or incidents.
- Services and activities are managed through Operations Manuals, policies and procedures and standard operating procedures to ensure a high standard of service is provided.
- IWA-Sport implements a process for maintaining a list of Mandated Persons in the Association.
- IWA-Sport has appointed a relevant person to be the first point of contact for the Corporate CSS.


Implementation

IWA-Sport Management Team is responsible for ensuring that the policies and procedures outlined in this Subsidiary CSS are in place and operating effectively. In IWA-Sport; each Sports Club and Sports Section that works with junior athletes/players completes the safeguarding risk assessment and Subsidiary CSS process which is being managed by the Club/Section Committee Officials and they are required to submit completed documentation to IWA-Sport as the National Governing Body.

This IWA-Sport Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 06/11/2027, or as soon as practicable if there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

For further information please contact Daragh Kennedy, National Safeguarding Officer (Relevant Person for the IWA Corporate Child Safeguarding Statement) on 087-9975444 or daragh.kennedy@iwa.ie.

Signed by: _____



Nicky Hamill, Director of Sport

Date:

11.11.25

