

SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT – 2025-2026

Area Name

Shillelagh

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 ...
CLUB & COACHING PRACTICES				
Lack of coaching qualification	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Coach education policy ■ Recruitment policy 	NGB Area	Four coaches have taken Athletics Ireland training courses since 2022. Continue to encourage coaches to enrol in up-skilling courses.
Supervision issues	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Supervision policy 	NGB Area	Ongoing review
Unauthorised photography & recording activities	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Filming and Photography policy 	NGB Area	Inform parents of a no photography rule during training sessions

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 ...
Behavioural Issues	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Conduct Safeguarding Level 1 (min) Complaints & Disciplinary policy 	Area	<p>Ongoing review</p> <p>Reinforce the Code of Conduct that all members are required sign at the start of season meeting and at additional times during the year if required.</p> <p>All committee members have completed Safeguarding Level 1 training. Reminders sent to complete online refresher course for those with expiring certificates.</p>
Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coach education policy Supervision policy 	Area	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>We've recruited 2 additional female coaches. The gender balance stands at 4 female/4 males coaches.</p>
No guidance for travelling and away trips	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel/Away trip policy within Child Protection Policy Child Safeguarding Training 	NGB Area	<p>We do not travel in groups.</p>
Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy (i.e. mobile, photography, transport)	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding policy Complaints & disciplinary policy 	Area	<p>Ongoing review.</p> <p>Parents are asked to familiarise themselves with the club's Safeguarding Statement when they receive their registration pack.</p>

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 ...
COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINE				
Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy Communications procedure 	Area	Parents will be asked to familiarise themselves with the club's Safeguarding Statement when they receive their registration pack.
Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent Reason: Covered above	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy Communications procedure 	Area	Review the communication/responsibilities of the procedure/policy as required. Highlight the role of Area Children's Officer and DLP at club meetings.
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy 	Area	Ongoing review.
REPORTING PROCEDURES				
Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy Coach education policy Code of Conduct / Behaviour 	NGB Mandated Person DLP	Make policies and procedures available. Include in Safeguarding Training (L1) Include in Coach Education Training Remind all committee members to review the club's Safeguarding Handbook
No Mandated Person appointed	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy 	NGB	Paula Murphy is the Mandated Person.

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 ...
No DLP Appointed	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/ policy 	NGB Area	Clare O’Toole is the DLP.
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/ policy Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 	Mandated Person DLP	Attend Safeguarding Training Publicise names of ACOs, DLPs, Mandated Person. Publicise internal and external reporting procedures.
Not clear who young people should talk to or report to	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post the names of Area COs, DLPs and Mandated Person 	Area CO DLP	Communicate within the Area Include in Safeguarding Training Introduce all Safeguarding officials at first parents’ information session. All Safeguarding officials to wear identifying hi-viz jackets at every training session and event.
FACILITIES				
Unauthorised access to designated children’s play & practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision policy Coach education 	NGB Area	Clarify responsibilities before session starts. Ask parents to take more responsibility when dropping off and collecting children. Use one entrance and exit point when on the training grounds.
Unauthorised exit from children’s areas	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision policy Coach education 	Area	Clarify responsibilities before session starts. Remind parents to collect children from the designated drop-off point.

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Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Filming and Photography policy and use of devices in private zones 	NGB Area	We do not have a changing area.
Missing or found child on site	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Missing Children Protocol 	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"> ▪ Safeguarding policy ▪ Supervision Policy 	Area	<p>Plan with facilities management to create a suitable child centred environment in shared facilities.</p> <p>No changing rooms or shower facilities. Ongoing review of toilet facilities.</p>
RECRUITMENT				
Recruitment of inappropriate people	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment policy 	NGB Area Area CO Appropriate personnel	Ongoing review. Garda vetting for all coaches and committee members.
Lack of clarity on roles	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment policy 	Area	Check job description Put supervision in place.
Unqualified or untrained people in role	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment policy 	Area	Four coaches have taken Athletics Ireland training courses since 2022. Continue to encourage coaches to enrol in up-skilling courses.

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COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA				
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement Training policy 	NGB Area DLP/Area CO	Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement.
No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Conduct to members or visitors	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement – display Code of Behaviour - distribute 	Area Executive County Executive DLP/ Areas CO	Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement. Distribute Code . Remind parents to review contents of the CG Code of Conduct and the club's Safeguarding Statement.
Unauthorised photography & recording of activities	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filming and Photography Policy 	Area	Ongoing review. Remind parents to review contents of the CG Code of Conduct.
Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18's	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Media policy Code of conduct 	Area Area CO	Ongoing review. Remind parents to review contents of the CG Code of Conduct.
Inappropriate use of social media and communications with under 18's	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications policy Code of conduct 	Area Area CO	Ongoing review. Remind parents to review contents of the CG Code of Conduct.
GENERAL RISK OF HARM				
Harm not being recognised	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding policy Child Safeguarding Training 	Area	Ongoing review.

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 ...
Harm caused by - child to child - coach to child - volunteer to child - member to child - visitor to child	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Safeguarding policy ■ Child Safeguarding Training 	NGB Area Area Children's Officer	Ongoing review. Take disciplinary action where necessary.
General behavioural issues	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Code of Conduct 	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

This Risk Assessment document has been discussed and completed by Hugh Davidson & Clare O'Toole on 14/1/2025/

Signed: _____

Name: Hugh Davidson

Role: Chairperson

Date: ___/___/___

Signed: _____

Name: Clare O'Toole

Role: Area Children's Officer

Date: ___/___/___