

Mountaineering Ireland Safeguarding Policy Summary

This document is a summary of the key principles of Mountaineering Ireland's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

Respect for each Member

Every individual in Mountaineering Ireland should show respect and understanding for each member's rights, development, safety and welfare. We show respect by conducting ourselves in accordance with the ethos and principles of Mountaineering Ireland.

Respect for each Child

We encourage an open environment where children feel free to speak out about their concerns in the knowledge that they will be listened to and their concerns taken seriously. This is a key pillar in our policy of safeguarding children.

Recruitment

The Majority of adults working directly with children in Mountaineering Ireland are volunteers in our clubs or drawn from our individual membership.. To support clubs and volunteers, we:

- Aim to ensure that all volunteers and employees are subject to proper recruitment processes. This will ensure that references are sought, and Garda or Access NI checks are conducted and reviewed on a regular basis.
- Provide ongoing support and training to ensure that adults working with children possess the necessary technical and safeguarding skills to support children in our Sport.

Key Policy Areas

Mountaineering Ireland, its staff, coaches and volunteers all operate within clear policies and procedures. This helps ensure that all participants, both children and adults, are valued and supported by the organisation. Our goal is that everyone can participate in our Sport to the best of their ability, drawing maximum enjoyment and learning from their experiences.

While we have a comprehensive range of policies, the key areas for this document are:

- Safety and Risk Assessment
- Supervision of Children
- Inclusion
- Equality
- Anti-Bullying
- Communication and Social Media
- Photography
- Travel
- Away trips and camping
- Physical Contact
- Codes of Conduct for Children, Adults and Parents
- Vulnerable Adults

Specific Safeguarding Areas

In Mountaineering Ireland, we recognise the importance of protecting children from "Significant Harm". We understand the key role our staff and volunteers have in creating a safe environment, listening to the children in our care and responding to their concerns. In order to do this we take our responsibilities to children's welfare very seriously.

Support from Mountaineering Ireland Staff

Mountaineering Ireland has two key roles who are responsible for ensuring that all volunteers are supported in relation to Child Welfare:

- The “National Designated Person” and
- The “National Children’s Officer”

Support for Clubs

At Club level, we require all clubs working with Children to have a “Designated Person” who is responsible for addressing concerns, and a “Children’s Officer”, who will act as a first point of contact in supporting children.

These roles are part of a comprehensive framework to support and protect children, and suitable training is provided.

Training

All of our staff and volunteers will be provided with suitable training and information to enable them to:

- Recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse and harm.
- Protect children in our care from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, bullying or neglect.
- Discuss concerns we may have with senior staff to support good decision making.
- Report our concerns in relation to the welfare of children to the relevant statutory authorities.
- Review our policies on a regular basis to reflect new learning and best practice in relation to safeguarding Children.

Further Advice and Guidance

Mountaineering Ireland
Irish Sport HQ,
National Sports Campus,
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Phone	00 353 (0)1 625 1115
National Children’s Officer	safeguarding@mountaineering.ie

National Children’s Officer
Mountaineering Ireland
March 2015

National Designated Person
Mountaineering Ireland
March 2015

Chairperson
Mountaineering Ireland
March 2015