



Club Child Safeguarding Statement (NI)

CLUB NAME

SECTION 1: CLUB INFORMATION

Our Club is affiliated to Mountaineering Ireland. Mountaineering Ireland is recognised as the National Governing Body (NGB) for mountaineering, hillwalking, and climbing by Sport Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland. Mountaineering Ireland provides a range of mountaineering activities and opportunities encompassing the best interests of children and young people participating in our sport. We acknowledge that all children attending our sporting environments have the right to be valued, welcomed, respected and protected. Children's views will be considered in any decisions regarding matters that affect them. Mountaineering Ireland's Child Safeguarding Statement identifies the potential risks of harm and the policies and procedures to alleviate those risks.

Club name:	Sport: Mountaineering
Location:	No. of members in club:
Name:	Name:
Activities (Club disciplines):	

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

Club Name is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies. Our staff, both volunteers and employed, working with our young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within our sport.

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 sport.

Needs of the child: All children's sport experiences should be guided by what is best for children. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical, and personal needs of young people.

Quality atmosphere & ethos: Children's sport should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere

Fair Play: All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasised, and organisers should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.

Competition: Competition 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.

Integrity in relationships: Adults interacting with children in sport are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.

Equality: All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background, or political persuasion.

SECTION 3: RISK ASSESSMENT

This Mountaineering Ireland Club written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required Policy, guidance or process documents require to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Potential risks of harm	Policy and procedure in place to reduce/prevent risk
Club and Coaching Practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of coaching/leadership qualification. Behavioural issues. Lack of gender balance amongst coaches. Lack of adherence to misc. procedures in Safeguarding Framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities Safeguarding Training Poor Practice and Whistleblowing Code of Conduct Coach Education Vetting/Access NI Policy and procedures
Complaints and Discipline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of awareness of a Complaints and Disciplinary Policy. Difficulty in raising an issue by a child or parent. Complaints not being dealt with seriously. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints and Disciplinary procedures. Social Media Policy. Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse. Child Safeguarding Framework.
Reporting Procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures. Concerns of abuse/harm not reported. No clarity on who to talk to/report concerns to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities. Recognising and Reporting . Child Abuse Policy. Poor Practice and Whistleblowing. Safeguarding Training.
Use of Indoor and Outdoor Facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of supervision when accessing facilities. Visitors or other users of the facilities e.g., parent, public, contractors. Missing or found child on site. Children sharing facilities with adults, e.g., dressing room, showers etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision Policy. Codes of Conduct. Missing or Found Child Policy. Safe Use of Changing Facilities Policy. Physical Contact Policy.
Recruitment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment of inappropriate people. Lack of clarity on roles. Unqualified or untrained people in roles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safer Recruitment Policy Safeguarding Training Vetting/ Access NI Policy and procedures. Volunteer Policy.
Communication and social media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Child Safeguarding Framework to members or visitors. Inappropriate use of social media and communications. Unauthorised photography and recording activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Conduct. Social Media Policy. Filming and Photography Policy.
General Risk of Harm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of guidance for travel/away trips. Harm not being recognised. Bullying issues. Harm caused by - child to child, coach to child, volunteer to child, member to child, visitor to child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse Policy. Travelling, Hosting and Away Trips Policy. Anti-Bullying Policy. Wellbeing and Mental Health Policy. Safeguarding Training. Club Inclusion Policy

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on (Insert Date DD/MM/YYYY):

SECTION 4: PROCEDURES

This Club Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the requirements under Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (2017) and the NI Safeguarding Children in Sport Standards 2018. Our Club also operates in line with Mountaineering Ireland’s Child Safeguarding Framework and associated policies and procedures. We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. We aim to review and implement any necessary changes to our safeguarding procedures regularly. The review period for this Child Safeguarding Statement is 1st August 2023 to 1st November 2023.

MOUNTAINEERING IRELAND HAS THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES IN PLACE AS PART OF OUR SAFEGUARDING POLICIES:

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities.
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person (Club Children’s Officer).

SECTION 5: IMPLEMENTATION

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our club is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our commitment to keep children safe from harm while participating in our activities.

Please note the following:

- That all volunteers and staff have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, & members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by the Club.

The Mountaineering Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement including all policies and procedures and is available on request or on our webpage at www.mountaineering.ie. You can also email Mountaineering Irelands National Children’s Officer and Designated Liaison Person, **Catherine Hibbitt** at safeguarding@mountaineering.ie or phone **087 605 7925** if you would like more information.

THIS CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT WILL BE REVIEWED ON:

(Insert date two years from date signed)

Signed*:	Date (DD/MM/YY):
(By the Club Children’s Officer (Relevant Person) On behalf the Club)	
Signed:	Date (DD/MM/YY):
(By the Club Chairperson)	
For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the Relevant Person (Club Children’s Officer)	
Name:	Phone No: