



Child Safeguarding Statement

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 attending our sport.



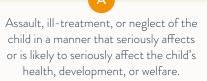
We acknowledge that all children attending our sporting environments have the right to be valued, welcomed, respected and protected. Children's views will be considered in any decisions regarding matters that affect them.



Mountaineering Ireland's Child Safegaurding Statement identifies the potential risks of harm and the policies and procedures to alleviate those risks.

Children First Act

The Children First Act, 2015 is the legal context for Child Safeguarding Statements. As defined in the Children First Act, 2015, "harm" means, in relation to a child:





Sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions, or circumstances, or otherwise.

This definition is understood as the harm caused to children by physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect. In the context of safeguarding, it may also relate to the bullying of children, child trafficking and or sexual exploitation, or the harm caused to children through the misuse of digital technology or on internet platforms.

> All Mountaineering Ireland policies and procedures are available on the Mountaineering Ireland Website: www.mountaineering.ie

Potential risks of harm

Club and Coaching Practices:

- Lack of coaching/leadership qualification.
- Behavioural issues.
- Lack of gender balance amongst coaches.
- Lack of adherence to misc. procedures in Safeguarding Framework.

Complaints and Discipline:

- 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.

Reporting Procedures:

- Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures.
- No Mandated Person or DLP appointed.
- Concerns of abuse/harm not reported.
- No clarity on who to talk to/report concerns to.

Policy and procedure in place to reduce/prevent risk

- Code of Conduct.
- Poor practice and Whistleblowing Policy.
- Safeguarding Training. •
- Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities.
- Vetting Policy and procedures.
- Coach Education.
- Complaints and Disciplinary procedures.
- Social Media Policy. •
- Child Safeguarding Framework.
- Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse Policy.
- Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse Policy.
- Poor Practice and Whistleblowing Policy. •
- Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities.
- Safeguarding Training.

Liaison Person and the Relevant

CSS is Catherine Hibbitt

safeguarding@mountaineering.ie or

by phone at 087 605 7925



First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017) and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. Our guiding principles are underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), The Child Care Act 1991, Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998, and the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012. All staff, volunteers, providers, committee/board members and work placement students within our organisation must sign up to and abide by our principles and child safeguarding procedures. We aim to review and implement any necessary changes to our safeguarding procedures regularly, but no later than every 24 months.

attreene Hibbitt Signed:

Date: 15 Nov. 2023

www.mountaineering.ie

Irish Sports HQ, National Sports Campus, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, D15 DY62 | (01) 625 1115