



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 Safeguarding 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:

A

Assault, ill-treatment, or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development, or welfare.

or

B

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	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"> Code of Conduct. Poor practice and Whistleblowing Policy. Safeguarding Training. Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities. Vetting Policy and procedures. Coach Education.
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. Child Safeguarding Framework. Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse Policy.
Reporting Procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse Policy. Poor Practice and Whistleblowing Policy. Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities. 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. Coach Education. 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 Policy and procedures. Volunteer Policy.
Communications 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. Inclusion Policy.

Safeguarding Policies

Our Child Safeguarding Statement sets out our commitment that all children will be equally protected from harm regardless of race, ability, ethnicity or sexual orientation. In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

Mountaineering Ireland has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

1

Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities.

2

Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.

3

Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.

4

Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.

5

Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities.

6

Procedure for appointing a relevant person (Club Children's Officer).

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. This CSS has been developed in line with the requirements under the Children 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.

Signed:

Catherine Hibbitt

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Mountaineering Ireland's Designated Liaison Person and the Relevant Person for this CSS is **Catherine Hibbitt** available at: safeguarding@mountaineering.ie or by phone at 087 605 7925

