



Club Name:

This Club operates as a provider of a relevant service to children and young people under **Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015**. Those providing a relevant service must undertake a risk assessment of any potential for harm and abuse that could befall a child while participating in our sporting organisation. In conformity with the requirements of Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015, the risk assessment is based on the risk of abuse to a child and not general health and safety risk. The subsequent Child Safeguarding Statement is based on the completed/updated risk assessment. Mountaineering Ireland affiliated clubs are required to display a Child Safeguarding Statement (Section 11 (1b) Children First Act 2015). This risk assessment has also been developed to ensure adherence to the **NI Safeguarding Standards for Children's Sport**.

Risk Assessment Instructions:

- ✚ The following risk assessment is pre-populated for review at your club meeting.
- ✚ The risk assessment must be discussed and completed at Committee level.
- ✚ Each identified risk must be assessed and ranked as either Low, Medium or High.
- ✚ As an individual club, you may identify additional risks that are specific to your club.
- ✚ The risk assessment must now be signed by your Chairperson and Club's Children's Officer.
- ✚ The discussion, completion and subsequent signing must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- ✚ Following completion of the risk assessment, please renew and edit your Clubs Child Safeguarding Statement (CSS).
- ✚ As a requirement of the Children First Act 2015, you must display your CSS in a prominent public place in your club facility.
- ✚ The CSS must be visible on your social media platforms.
- ✚ Please email safeguarding@mountaineering.ie or contact your National Children's Officer, Catherine Hibbitt for advice and support on 0876057925.

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club/Region/National	Further action required....
Club and Coaching Practices				
Lack of coaching/leadership qualifications		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safer Recruitment Policy ▪ Safeguarding Training Policy ▪ Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities 	Club Committee	<i>Proof of qualification and experiences to be confirmed</i>
Behavioural issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Conduct ▪ Safeguarding Training Policy ▪ Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures 	Club Committee Club Children’s Officer	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Lack of gender balance among coaches		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safer Recruitment Policy ▪ Coach Education Policy 	Club Committee Club Children’s Officer	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Lack of adherence to misc. procedures in Safeguarding policy.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Safeguarding Policy ▪ Safeguarding Training ▪ Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures 	Club Committee Club Children’s Officer Event Organisers	<i>Distribution of policy and highlight location of policy. Ongoing review</i>

Complaints and Discipline				
Lack of awareness of Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complaints and Disciplinary procedures ▪ Safeguarding Policy ▪ Communications Policy and procedures 	Club Committee Club Children's Officer	<i>Ensure distribution of policies to all members</i> <i>Improve communication pathways</i>
Difficulty in raising an issue by a child or parent		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complaints and Disciplinary procedures ▪ Poor Practice and whistle blowing policy. ▪ Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse Policy 	Club Committee Club Children's Officer	<i>Children's Officer is identified to all members</i>
Complaints not being dealt with seriously		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complaints and Disciplinary procedures ▪ Poor Practice and whistle blowing policy 	Club Committee Club Children's Officer	<i>Create a clear pathway for raising a complaint or concern</i>
Reporting Procedures				
Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Safeguarding Framework ▪ Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse Policy ▪ Safeguarding Training Policy ▪ Code of Conduct 	Mountaineering Ireland Mandated Person Club Committee Club Children's Officer	<i>Attend Safeguarding Training level 1.</i> <i>Make policies and procedures available</i>

<p>No Mandated Person or DLP appointed</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities ▪ Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse Policy ▪ Poor Practice and whistle blowing policy. ▪ Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment of Harm 	<p>Mountaineering Ireland Club Committee</p>	<p><i>Publicise identity of Mandated Person (MP) and Designated Liaison Person (DLP)</i> <i>Train MP/DLP</i></p>
<p>Concerns of abuse/harm not reported</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities ▪ Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse Policy ▪ Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment of Harm ▪ Safeguarding Training Policy ▪ Poor Practice and whistle blowing policy. 	<p>Mandated Person Designated Liaison Person Club Committee</p>	<p><i>Publicise names of CCO and MP/DLP</i> <i>Inform members of reporting procedures</i> <i>Publicise reporting procedures.</i> <i>Attend Safeguarding Training</i></p>
<p>Use of indoor and outdoor facilities</p>				
<p>Lack of supervision when accessing facilities</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Safeguarding Policy ▪ Poor Practice and Whistleblowing Policy ▪ Safe Use of Changing Facilities Policy 	<p>Club Committee Person in charge Club</p>	<p><i>Clarify responsibilities before session starts</i></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision Policy 		
Visitors or other users of the facilities e.g., / parent, public, contractors.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Policy 	Club Committee Person in charge Club	<i>Make policies and procedures available. Enforce Child Safeguarding Policy</i>
Missing or found child on site.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing or found child policy 	Club Event organiser Any appropriate club personnel	<i>Refer to policy and inform Gardai/PSNI</i>
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g., dressing room, showers etc.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Policy Safe Use of Changing Facilities Policy 	Club Committee Club Children’s Officer Person in charge	<i>Plan with Club Committee to create a suitable child centred environment on shared facilities</i>
Recruitment				
Recruitment of inappropriate people		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safer Recruitment policy Vetting policy and procedures Child Safeguarding Policy Volunteer Policy 	Mountaineering Ireland Club Committee Club Children’s Officer	<i>Recruitment panel informed of policy. Ongoing review</i>
Lack of clarity on roles		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safer Recruitment policy 	Club Committee Club Children’s Officer	<i>Check Job Description</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities ▪ Safeguarding Training 		<i>Ensure staff/volunteers are supervised</i>
Unqualified or untrained people in roles		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safe Recruitment Policy ▪ Child Safeguarding Policy ▪ Volunteer Policy 	Mountaineering Ireland Club Committee Club Children's Officer	<i>Check qualifications.</i> <i>Ongoing review</i>
Communications and social media				
No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Child Safeguarding policy to members or visitors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Safeguarding Statement ▪ Safeguarding Policy 	Club Committee Club Children's Officer	<i>Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement</i> <i>Distribute Safeguarding Policy as appropriate.</i> <i>Inform members of Code of Conduct</i>
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Safeguarding Statement ▪ Safeguarding Policy 	Club Committee Club Children's Officer	<i>Publish and display Child Safeguarding Statement</i> <i>Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement</i>
Inappropriate use of social media and communications		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communications policy ▪ Codes of Conduct ▪ Travelling policy 	Club Committee Club Children's Officer Person in charge	<i>Inform members of policies</i> <i>Ongoing review</i>

<p>Unauthorised photography and recording activities.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complaints and Disciplinary procedures ▪ Codes of Conduct ▪ Filming and Photography policy ▪ Travelling, Hosting and Away Trips Policy 	<p>Club Committee Club Children’s Officer Person in charge</p>	<p><i>Inform members of policies</i> <i>Ongoing review</i></p>
<p>General Risk of Harm</p>				
<p>Lack of guidance for travel/away trips</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Travelling policy, Hosting and Away Trips Policy ▪ Safeguarding Training 	<p>Club Committee Club Children’s Officer</p>	<p><i>Refer to policy during planning.</i> <i>Arrangements in place in line with best practice</i> <i>Ongoing review</i></p>
<p>Harm not being recognised.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding Policy ▪ Safeguarding Training ▪ Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse Policy 	<p>Club Committee All Club personnel</p>	<p><i>Informal Consultation with Tusla/Gateway NI</i> <i>Ongoing review</i></p>

<p>Harm caused by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child to child • Coach to child • Volunteer to child • Member to child • Visitor to child 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding Policy ▪ Safeguarding Training ▪ Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse Policy 	<p>Club Committee All Club personnel</p>	<p><i>Child Protection Reporting Procedures to Tusla or Gardaí (ROI), Gateway NI, PSNI (NI) Ongoing review</i></p>
<p>Bullying issues</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Conduct ▪ Anti-Bullying policy ▪ Complaints and Disciplinary procedures ▪ Wellbeing and Mental Health Policy 	<p>Club Committee Club Children’s Officer</p>	<p><i>Take disciplinary action where necessary. Sign code of conduct</i></p>

Explanations of terms within the risk assessment:

- ✚ **Potential risk of harm to children:** identified risks of harm to children whilst accessing activities in the Club.
- ✚ **Likelihood of harm happening:** the likelihood of the risk happening in the club measured using Low/Medium or High.
- ✚ **Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document:** indication of the policy/policies required to alleviate the risk. Refer to Mountaineering Ireland Safeguarding Policy 2023 and any other rules or policy guidance in place.
- ✚ **Responsibility:** where the responsibility for alleviating the risk lies.
- ✚ **Further action:** where further action might be necessary to alleviate any risk ongoing.



This Safeguarding Risk Assessment 2023 has been discussed and completed by the committee of –

_____ **on** _____.

(Insert Club name and date)

Signed:

Name:

Chairperson:

Date:

Signed:

Name:

Chairperson:

Date: