

Child Safeguarding Statement

Offaly Sports Partnership (Offaly SP) provides opportunities for young people to participate in various physical activity and sporting programmes and mass participation events through our work.

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

Offaly SP's 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 required to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified are contained in the following categories: -

- Coaching Practices
- Complaints & Discipline
- Reporting Procedures
- Use of Facilities
- Recruitment
- Communications
- General Risk of Harm

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on Wednesday, 11th January 2023

Offaly SP's Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice). 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.


Offaly SP has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies: -

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities
[Complaints & disciplinary policy - section 4, GPC¹ (p17 – 18); Disciplinary, complaints & appeals procedure - policies, SI CoFE & GP SfYP² (p10 - 11)]
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities
[Recruitment policy - section 6, GPC (p20); Recruitment & selection policy-policies, SI CoFE & GP SfYP (p12)]
- Guidelines for recognition of abuse, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
[Appendix 3 - GPC (p29 - 34); Child welfare & protection procedures- SI CoFE & GP SfYP (p20)]
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities
[Reporting child protection & welfare concerns - section 3, GPC (p12 - 16); Child welfare & protection procedures - child welfare & protection procedures, SI CoFE & GP SfYP (p20)]

The Designated Liaison Person for Offaly SP is Eamonn Henry, Coordinator, Offaly SP.

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Offaly SP is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every three years.

Signed:  Name: Robert Mc Dermott, Chair, Offaly SP
(on behalf of the Offaly SP) on 25th January 2023

Phone no: 057 93 46843

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact Eamonn Henry, Coordinator, Offaly SP on 057 93 46843 or by email to ehenry@offalycoco.ie

¹ GPC - Guidelines for the Protection of Children issued by Offaly County Council, 2009

² SI CoFE & GP SfYP – Sport Ireland Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Sport for Young People, 2009

