

Safeguarding Pack

To support sports clubs in order to help them to keep children safe, standards of practice and reporting procedures apply where there are any concerns around vulnerable adults/adults at risk.

This pack is a collection of best practice guidelines and templates that your club can use to help promote children's wellbeing and help to keep them safe in our sport. It will be regularly reviewed (every three years or in response to relevant legislation or government guidance) and it incorporates any new and updated child wellbeing guidance. In this document a child or young person is defined as someone under the age of 18.

To ensure your club is a safe environment for children and young people it is recommended that all sections of this pack are implemented. Clubs are at liberty to supplement the information in this pack, but they are expressly prohibited from departing from the information which is now being made available in this document.

You can use it:

- in its entirety or select only the relevant sections when needed
- to look at what is already in place at your club – to confirm the positives and/or identify any gaps
- to develop policies and procedures – templates can be used as is or added to suit your club's needs

It provides guidance and support for staff and volunteers working with children in our clubs and any member of staff or volunteer taking on the role of Children's Officer, Designated Liaison Person, or working/volunteering with children. It should be read in conjunction with other Cricket Ireland policies and all other relevant policies and procedures.

Throughout this guidance we will refer to Cricket Clubs' volunteers/staff. By this we mean anyone

involved in the delivery of the sport, for example, paid or unpaid staff including volunteer coaches, parent helpers, officials, etc.

Further Support

Each Provincial union has a Designated Liaison Person and further guidance and support is available from Cricket Ireland's National Safeguarding Officer at joy.oneill@cricketireland.ie

The NSO is the point of contact for Provincial Union Designated Liaison Persons and Club Childrens officer and Designated Liaison Persons if needed. Under the Children First Act, The NSO will act as the Mandated Person for Cricket Ireland. It is the legal duty of the Mandated Person to report any child welfare concerns reaching a certain threshold to the statutory bodies.

If you have an immediate and serious concern about the safety of a child, contact the Gardai/PSNI or Tusla/HSCT child protection team. Contact details of social work can be found on the relevant local authority website.

CREATING A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

Cricket Ireland encourages an environment where there is clear and open communication and where children, parents and everyone involved in the game feels free to ask questions, make suggestions and raise concerns. Clubs can create this environment by adopting a welcoming and approachable attitude for all participants.

Welcome meeting

A welcome/open meeting at suitable points in the calendar, where parents/carers can be provided with relevant information and get to

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know key people in the club and what they can expect for their children and themselves.

Communications

Not everyone who comes to the club will understand the laws and rules of the game. The club should agree a strategy for communicating with potential, new and current members, as well as the community at large. The club should tell parents/carers how they plan to communicate with them – by email, phone, text, newsletters, social media etc.

- Written information

As a minimum, children and their parents/ carers should be provided with written information by the club, informing them of training session times, what equipment (if any) is required, whether the parent/carer is required to stay etc. The information should include the name and contact details of the Club Childrens Officer and a Code of Conduct.

- Text and email communication

It is strongly recommended that texts and emails are sent directly to parents and not just to children/young people themselves.

Arrangements should be made directly with parents/carers - this helps keep communications transparent and to maintain clear boundaries between coaches/club officials and children and young people. Where there are U18 team communication groups between a coach and the team, at least three parents should be included as moderators.

Seeking feedback

When children are in an environment where their views are sought and acted upon, they will not only enjoy the game more, they will feel and be

safer. Seeking children's feedback regularly is good practice. This can be done at the end of coaching sessions, simply asking for a show of hands on what they have enjoyed / not enjoyed the most or asking them in pairs to decide on something they want to say about a session, a match, a trip. Doing this with parents and carers has similar benefits. This approach helps to build an open environment where good practice flourishes.

For further assistance in how you can increase young people's participation in the planning and running of sports activities, and how this benefits everyone visit the Child Protection in Sport Units free online resource 'I'm involved' at www.the cpsu.org.uk