

Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1 – NGB / club information

Fencing Ireland provides fencing activities and opportunities for young people through participation in clubs, national events and through our national teams.

NGB/Club details:

- Name: Fencing Ireland
- Sport: Fencing
- Location (National/Local level): Dublin – National level
- Size (Number of staff/clubs):
 - 2 Staff, 22 Clubs
- Activities: Fencing

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

Fencing Ireland is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our NGB Safeguarding Policies our staff, both volunteers and employed, working with our young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport. The following set of principles should be adhered to:

- **Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in sport.
- **Needs of the child** - All children's sport experiences should be guided by what is best for children. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of young people.
- **Integrity in relationships** - Adults interacting with children in sport are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.
- **Fair Play** - All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasised, and organisers should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.
- **Quality atmosphere & ethos** - Children's sport should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.
- **Competition** - Competition is an essential element of sport and should be encouraged in an age appropriate manner. A child centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.
- **Equality** - All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

Section 3 - Risk Assessment

This *Fencing Ireland* 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 require to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
<p>Club and Coaching Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Lack of coaching qualification. — Unauthorised photography & recording activities. — Behavioural Issues. — No guidance for travelling & away trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Coaching courses are made available — Photography & Use of Images policy — Code of Conduct / Safeguarding 1 / Complaints & Disciplinary policy. — Travel/Away trip policy / Child Safeguarding Training.
<p>Complaints & Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Policies easily available on website, membership to be made aware at the beginning of each year.
<p>Reporting Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures — Concerns of abuse or harm not reported. — Not clear who YP should talk to or report to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Reporting procedures are communicated regularly and a chain of command is established. — All volunteers and coaches who come into contact with children must complete Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1. A safeguarding officer is mandatory in every club which takes in minors. — Clubs required to let members know the name of SO and DLP.

<p>Use of Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Unauthorised access to designated children’s play & practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. — Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas. — 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 — Photography policy — Missing or found child policy. — Safeguarding policy.
<p>Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Recruitment of inappropriate people. — Lack of clarity on roles. — Unqualified or untrained people in role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Garda Vetting Policy — Coaching Course — Coaching Course/appropriate training courses
<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members of visitors. — Unauthorised photography & recording of activities. — Inappropriate use of social media & communications by under 18’s — Inappropriate use of social media & communications with under 18’s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Child Safeguarding Statement (displayed on website) / Code of Conduct (distributed when renewing membership) — Photography policy — Code of conduct — Safeguarding Policy

<p>General Risk of Harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Harm not being recognised. — Harm caused by: Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child. Member to Child. Visitor to Child. — General behavioural issues. — Issues of Bullying. — Vetting of staff/volunteers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training. — Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training. — Code of Conduct. — Anti-Harassment policy available on web — Volunteers and staff are vetted before commencement of their appointment
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The Risk Assessment was undertaken on **29.07.2025.**

Section 4 – Procedures

Our 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.

Fencing Ireland 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.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities.
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.

The National Children's Officer is Stefania Negro.

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Fencing Ireland 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.

Please note the following:

- That all staff have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, the Agency and members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed on the Fencing Ireland Website.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on **01/07/2027**

Signed:


Signature Of Ursula kappus

Date: 29/07/2025

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact **safeguarding@fencingireland.net**