



Child Safeguarding Statement

Board approval August 1st 2024

Section 1 – Community Games

Cairn Community Games provides various sporting activities and opportunities for young people through participation in areas, counties, regional/provincial events and through our national finals throughout the year.

- Name: Cairn Community Games
- Sport: Multi Sport
- Location: 20 Inish Carraig House, Golden Island, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, Ireland
- Size: Cairn Community Games have 13 paid staff members. Cairn Community Games has 160,000 children and approximately 20,000 volunteers in about 430 areas throughout 26 counties.
- Activities: The activities are divided into two categories - Sports and Cultural events which can be accessed here <https://www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events.html>

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

Cairn Community Games 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 sports 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 Cairn Community Games 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 and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
<p>Area and Coaching Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of coaching qualification. <input type="checkbox"/> Supervision issues. <input type="checkbox"/> Unauthorised photography & recording activities. <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Issues. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of gender balance amongst coaches <input type="checkbox"/> Risk to Children through failure to implement guidance for travelling and away trips <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of adherence with miscellaneous procedures in Safeguarding policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Coach education policy/Volunteer Recruitment policy. <input type="checkbox"/> Supervision policy/Coach education policy <input type="checkbox"/> Filming and Photography policy / Social Media Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Code of Conduct / Safeguarding 1 / Complaints & Disciplinary policy. <input type="checkbox"/> Coach education policy / Supervision policy. <input type="checkbox"/> Travel/Away trip policy / Child Safeguarding Training. <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding Policy / Complaints & Disciplinary Policy

<p>Complaints & Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy. <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent <input type="checkbox"/> Complaints not being dealt with seriously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complaints & Disciplinary Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Complaints & Disciplinary Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Complaints & Disciplinary Policy.
<p>Reporting Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures <input type="checkbox"/> No DLP appointed. <input type="checkbox"/> Concerns of abuse or harm not reported. <input type="checkbox"/> Not clear who young should talk to or report to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting procedures/policy / Coach Education policy / Code of Conduct/Behaviour. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting procedures/policy. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting procedures/policy / Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Post the names of CCO, DLP and Mandated person.
<p>Use of Facilities</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Unauthorised access to designated children’s play & practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Unauthorised exit from children’s areas. <input type="checkbox"/> Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas. <input type="checkbox"/> Missing or found child on site. <input type="checkbox"/> Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Supervision policy / Coach Education. <input type="checkbox"/> Supervision policy / Coach Education. <input type="checkbox"/> Filming and Photography policy and use of devices in private zones. <input type="checkbox"/> Missing or found child policy. <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding policy.
<p>Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recruitment of inappropriate people. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of clarity on roles. <input type="checkbox"/> Unqualified or untrained people in roles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Recruitment policy/Vetting Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Recruitment policy. <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Recruitment policy.
<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors. <input type="checkbox"/> No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members of visitors. <input type="checkbox"/> Unauthorised photography & recording of activities. <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate use of social media & communications by under 18’s <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate use of social media & communications with under 18’s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Child Safeguarding Statement / Training Policy. <input type="checkbox"/> Child Safeguarding Statement (display) / Code of Behaviour (distribute). <input type="checkbox"/> Filming and Photography policy / Social Media Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Communications policy / Code of conduct/ Social Media Policy

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Risk of harm of online abuse through Social Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Communications policy / Code of conduct/ Social Media policy <input type="checkbox"/> Communications policy/Social Media Policy
<p>General Risk of Harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Harm not being recognised. <input type="checkbox"/> Harm caused by: Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child. Member to Child. Visitor to Child. <input type="checkbox"/> General behavioural issues. <input type="checkbox"/> Issues of Bullying. <input type="checkbox"/> Vetting of staff/volunteers. <input type="checkbox"/> Issues of Online Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Risk of infection from Covid 19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training. <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training. <input type="checkbox"/> Code of Conduct. <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Bullying policy. <input type="checkbox"/> Recruitment policy / Vetting policy. <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media / Online Safety policy. <input type="checkbox"/> Sport specific policies on Social distancing and best practice guidelines for each contact activity.

The Risk Assessment was undertaken in June 2024.

Section 4 – Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been prepared in accordance with the legislative requirements contained in the Children First Act 2015, Children’s First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, 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.

Community Games have 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 maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.

The Mandated/Relevant Person for NGB is *Donal Gillespie National Children’s Officer*.

Contact: safeguarding@communitygames.ie

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our NGB 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, members of the public through Cairn Community Games website and on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by the NGB.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on *June 2026*

Signed: **Donal Gillespie**
2024

National Children’s Officer Date: 1st August
Phone no: 0852516244

Signed: 

CEO Date: 1st August 2024

(On behalf of the Community Games)

Name: David Hoysted

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the National Children's Officer.

This policy is available for download at www.communitygames.ie.