

# CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT – 2025

Area Name	St Michael's
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## Section 1 – Community Games

*(St Michael's) Community Games* provides various sporting activities and opportunities for young people through participation in areas, counties, regional/provincial events and through our national finals twice per year.

- Name: St Michael's
- Sport: Multi Sport
- Location: Ballintogher, Co Sligo
- Size: St Michael's Community Games has 10 adult volunteers. St Michael's Community Games has 110 children actively participating on an annual basis.
- Activities: The activities are divided into two categories - individual and team. Individual events include Art, Cycling, Gymnastics, Swimming, Athletics track and field events- specifically Shot Putt, Discus, Javelin, Hurdles, Ball Throw, Long Jump and Cycling. Team events include Basketball, Draughts, Futsal, Gaelic Football, Soccer (Indoor & Outdoor, Table Quiz, Pitch & Putt, Variety and Talent Events)

## Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

St Michael's Community Games is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our NGB Safeguarding Policies volunteers, working with our young people throughout the Area 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

The **St Michael's 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 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
<b>Club and Coaching Practices</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of coaching qualification.</li> <li>— Supervision issues.</li> <li>— Unauthorised photography &amp; recording activities.</li> <li>— Behavioural Issues.</li> <li>— Lack of gender balance amongst coaches</li> <li>— Lack of adherence with miscellaneous procedures in Safeguarding policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Coach education policy/Volunteer Recruitment policy.</li> <li>— Supervision policy/Coach education policy</li> <li>— Filming and Photography policy / Social Media Policy</li> <li>— Code of Conduct / Safeguarding / Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy.</li> <li>— Coach education policy / Supervision policy.</li> <li>— Safeguarding Policy / Complaints &amp; Disciplinary Policy</li> </ul>
<b>Complaints &amp; Discipline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of awareness of a Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy.</li> <li>— Difficulty in raising an issue by child &amp; or parent</li> </ul>
<b>Reporting Procedures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of knowledge of organisational &amp; statutory reporting procedures</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Reporting procedures/policy / Coach Education policy / Code of Conduct/Behaviour.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— No DLP appointed.</li> <li>— Concerns of abuse or harm not reported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Reporting procedures/policy.</li> <li>— Reporting procedures/policy / Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Unauthorised access to designated children's play &amp; practice areas &amp; to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.</li> <li>— Unauthorised exit from children's areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Supervision policy / Coach Education.</li> <li>— Supervision policy / Coach Education.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of clarity on roles.</li> <li>— Unqualified or untrained people in role.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Volunteer Recruitment policy.</li> <li>— Volunteer Recruitment policy.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors.</li> <li>— Unauthorised photography &amp; recording of activities.</li> <li>— Risk of harm of online abuse through Social Media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Child Safeguarding Statement / Training Policy.</li> <li>— Filming and Photography policy / Social Media Policy</li> <li>— Communications policy/Social Media Policy</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Harm not being recognised.</li> <li>— Harm caused by:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training.</li> <li>— Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding</li> </ul>

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 1/2/2025

<p>Training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Code of Conduct.</li> <li>— Anti-Bullying policy.</li> <li>— Recruitment policy / Vetting policy.</li> <li>— Social Media / Online Safety policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child to Child.</li> <li>Coach to Child.</li> <li>Volunteer to Child.</li> <li>Member to Child.</li> <li>Visitor to Child.</li> <li>— General behavioural issues.</li> <li>— Issues of Bullying.</li> <li>— Vetting of staff/volunteers.</li> <li>— Issues of Online Safety</li> </ul>
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## 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.
- Procedures 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](mailto:safeguarding@communitygames.ie)

Mandated Persons within the Area are: (Insert any Mandated persons active within your Area) further information can be obtained from here <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/mandated-persons/am-i-a-mandated-person/>

## Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our Area 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 Volunteers have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, members of the public through Area Community Games website and on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by the Area.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 1/21/2027

<p>Signed: <u>Breege Ballantine</u></p> <p>Name: <u>BREEGE BALLANTINE</u></p> <p>Role: Area Children's Officer</p> <p>Date: <u>1/21/27</u></p>	<p>Signed: <u>Martina Delahunty</u></p> <p>Name: <u>MARTINA DELAHUNTY</u></p> <p>Role: (Chairperson)</p> <p>Date: <u>1/21/27</u></p>
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For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the Area Children's Officer Breege Ballantine  
 Contact email: breegemcgarry5@gmail.com