

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT – 2025

Area Name
St Mary's Area Carlow

Section 1 – Community Games

(St. Mary's Area Carlow) 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 Mary's Area Carlow**
- Sport: Multi Sport
- Location: (Carlow)
- Size: St. Mary's Area Community Games have 8 adult volunteers. St. Mary's Area Community Games has 35 children actively participating on an annual basis.
- Activities: The activities are divided into two categories - individual and team. Individual events include Art, Model Making, Cycling, Gymnastics, Swimming, Athletics track and field events- Hurdles, Team events include Badminton, Basketball, Camogie, Chess, Draughts, Debating, Futsal, Gaelic Football, Handball, Hurling, Rounders, Rugby, Tag Rugby, Soccer (Indoor & Outdoor), Table Tennis, Table Quiz, Variety and Talent Events!

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

St. Marys 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

This St. Mary's Area **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
<p>Club 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"/> Behavioural Issues. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of gender balance amongst coaches <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"/> 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"/> <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"/> Concerns of abuse or harm not reported. <input type="checkbox"/> Not clear who YP 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. Reporting procedures/policy / Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Post the names of CCO, DLP and Mandated person.
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<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. 	<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.
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<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 role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> /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 	<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

<p>General Risk of Harm</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Harm not being recognised.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Harm caused by: Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child. Member to Child. Visitor to Child.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> General behavioural issues.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Issues of Bullying.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Vetting of staff/volunteers.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Code of Conduct.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Bullying policy.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recruitment policy / Vetting policy.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sport specific policies on Social distancing and best practice guidelines for each contact activity.</p>
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The Risk Assessment was undertaken on (13/01/ 2025).

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

Ailín Lancaster

Carmel O'Sullivan

<https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/mandatedpersons/am-i-a-mandated-person/>

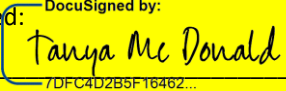
Section 5 – Implementation

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 in January **2024**

<p>Signed: <small>DocuSigned by:</small>  <small>7DFC4D2B5F16462...</small></p> <p>Name: Tanya Mc Donald</p> <p>Role: <i>(Chairperson)</i></p> <p>Date: <u>15</u> / <u>01</u> / 2025</p>	<p>Signed: <i>Carmel O' Sullivan</i></p> <p>Name: Carmel O' Sullivan</p> <p>Role: Area Children's Officer</p> <p>Date: 15/01/2025</p>
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For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the Area Children's Officer (Carmel of Sullivan).

Contact email: carmeljuly77@gmail.com