Athletics Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1 – NGB / club information

Crusaders Athletic Club is affiliated to Athletics Ireland and provides various sporting activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation in clubs, regional/provincial events and through to our national teams. Organised events involved the provision of athletic championships and games that involve in some instances require attendance at weekend events and overnight trips for clubs and their members. Athletics Ireland is a voluntary led organisation that provides its members with opportunities to participate in the sport of Track and Field Athletics across all age grades from Juvenile (u9 to u16), Youth (u18), Junior (u20), Senior (u35) and Master (35+).

- Club Name and Address: **Crusaders Athletic Club, Irishtown Stadium, Seapoint Terrace, Strand Street, Dublin 4, D04 KN77**
- Sport: ***Track and Field Athletics, Cross Country, Road Running and Race Walking.***
- Location (National/Local level): ***Local and County.***
- Number of club members: **730** (August 2024)
- Activities: ***Track and Field, Cross Country, Road Running and Race Walking.***

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

Athletics Ireland is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our 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 Athletics Ireland Club 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
Club and Coaching Practices	
— Lack of coaching qualification.	— Coach education policy/Recruitment policy.
— Supervision issues.	— Supervision policy/Coach education policy
— Unauthorised photography & recording activities.	— Photography & Use of Images policy
— Behavioural Issues.	— Code of Conduct / Safeguarding 1 / Complaints & Disciplinary policy.
— Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	— Coach education policy / Supervision policy.
— No guidance for travelling & away trips	— Travel/Away trip policy / Child Safeguarding Training.
— Risk of harm of sexual abuse of a child by a volunteer/member of staff while away on an overnight trip	— Travel/Away trip policy, Code of Ethics, Code of conducts for sports leaders and parents
— Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy	— Safeguarding Policy / Complaints & disciplinary policy
Complaints & Discipline	
— Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy.	— Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure.
— Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent	— Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure.
— Complaints not being dealt with seriously	— Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy.

Reporting Procedures — Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures — No DLP appointed. — Concerns of abuse or harm not reported. — Not clear who YP should talk to or report to.	 — Reporting procedures/policy / Coach Education policy / Code of Conduct/Behaviour. — Reporting procedures/policy. — Reporting procedures/policy / Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 — Post the names of **CCO** (**Tessa O'Neill**) , **DLP (Brian Linton)** and **Mandated person (Kieron Stout, Athletics Ireland, National Children's Officer).**
Use of Facilities — Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc….. — Unauthorised exit from children's areas. — Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas. — Missing or found child on site. — Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc…	 — Supervision policy / Coach Education. — Supervision policy / Coach Education. — Photography policy and use of devices in private zones. — Missing or found child policy. — Safeguarding policy.
Recruitment — Recruitment of inappropriate people. — Lack of clarity on roles. — Unqualified or untrained people in role.	 — Recruitment policy. — Recruitment policy. — Recruitment policy.

Communications	
— Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors.	— Child Safeguarding Statement / Training Policy.
— No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members of visitors.	— Child Safeguarding Statement (display) / Code of Behaviour (distribute).
— Unauthorised photography & recording of activities.	— Photography & Use of Images policy
— Inappropriate use of social media & communications by under 18's	— Communications policy / Code of conduct
— Inappropriate use of social media & communications with under 18's.	— Communications policy / Code of conduct
General Risk of Harm	
— Harm not being recognised.	— Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training.
— Harm caused by: Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child. Member to Child. Visitor to Child.	— Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training.
— General behavioural issues.	— Code of Conduct.
— Issues of Bullying.	— Anti-Bullying policy.
— Vetting of staff/volunteers.	— Recruitment policy / Vetting policy.
— Issues of Online Safety	— Social Media / Online Safety policy.

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.

Athletics Ireland has 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 (Club Children's Officer).

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.

Kieron Stout is the relevant person for Athletics Ireland, and he is also a mandated person as set out in the Children First Act 2015. Kieron can be contacted on 086 2450134.

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our club 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 and staff have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, the Agency & members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by the Club.

The Athletics Ireland Child Safeguarding Plan including all policies and procedures is available on request or at the following webpage for download. https://www.athleticsireland.ie/juvenile/child-welfare

You can also email childwelfare@athleticsireland.ie if you would like any information sent to you.

Signed: Tessa O'Neill Date: 4th November 2024

(By the Club Children's Officer (Relevant Person) On behalf the Club)

Name: Tessa O'Neill Phone no: 086 813 1475

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the Relevant Person (CCO) as above

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed two years from the date of signing.

Version	***Release Date***	***Author***	***Changes***
1.0	23rd of February 2019	Child safeguarding	New Version
1.1	22nd of February 2021	Child safeguarding	Reviewed by TUSLA Child and Family Agency – no recommendations made
1.2	15/08/2023	Child safeguarding	Tusla review
2.0	25/09/2023	Crusaders Athletic Club Children's Officer	Crusaders Athletic Club details completed, adoption & signing.
2.1	04/11/2024	Crusaders Athletic Club Children's Officer	Crusaders Athletic Club details including new Club Children's Officer updated, Names of current CCO, DLP and Mandated Person included & signing.