

# Irish Dragon Boat Association (IDBA)

## Child Safeguarding Statement



### Name and nature of service:

The Irish Dragon Boat Association (IDBA) is the governing body for the sport of dragon boating in Ireland. The mission of the IDBA is to make dragon boating a mass participation sport throughout the 32 counties in Ireland and make the sport accessible to all ages and abilities.

### Our principles to safeguarding children/young people:

The IDBA is committed to a child-centred approach to our work with children and young people. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of the child/young person is paramount. The IDBA's principles to safeguard children/young people from harm are to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children take priority over all other considerations.
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm happening to children.
- protect and promote the rights of children and young people, including their right to be protected, treated with respect, listened to and to have their own views taken into consideration in all decisions affecting them.
- ensure that no child or young person is disadvantaged or treated differently because of gender, social or ethnic background, family status, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.
- fully comply with its statutory obligation under the Children First Act 2015, addendum to the Children First Act 2019 and any other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children.
- encourage the involvement of parents/guardians in club activities.
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

Our guiding principles apply to all IDBA members, staff, volunteers and executive committee members engaged in the activities of the association with children/young people. The IDBA have developed policies and procedures to ensure this commitment is enshrined in all aspect of the associations activities and recognises it holds ultimate responsibility for the wellbeing of the child/young person who participate in its activities. Parents and members will be informed of relevant policies and procedures.

### Procedures:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015 and in line with Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017). In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children and young people while they are engaging in our activities:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child/ young person engaging in our activities.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment and selection of volunteers to work with children.
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of harm.
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All policies and procedures are available upon request.

### Risk Assessment:

We have assessed any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services, including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

#	Risk Identified#	Procedure in place to manage identified risk#
1.#	Risk of harm to a child/young person from a member/volunteer#	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers/volunteers to work with children/young people. #¶</li> <li>● Code of Conduct for members/volunteers. #</li> </ul>
2.#	Risk of harm by a visitor to the club#	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Procedures for supervision/accompanying of children/young people. #</li> </ul>
3.#	Risk of harm by another child/young person in the club.#	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Procedures for supervision/accompanying of children/young people. #¶</li> <li>● Code of Conduct for children/young persons. #</li> </ul>
4.#	Risk of harm by inappropriate use of social media/internet by and with children/young people#	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Communication Policy. #¶</li> <li>● Code of Conduct for members/volunteers. #¶</li> <li>● Code of Conduct for children/young people. #</li> </ul>
5.#	Risk of harm from the inappropriate use of photography#	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Communication Policy. #</li> </ul>
6.#	Risk of harm not being identified by personnel#	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Procedure for the provision of an access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm. #</li> </ul>
7.#	Risk of harm from a person when using alternative venues.#	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Procedures for supervision/accompanying of children/young people. #</li> </ul>
8.#	Risk of harm not being recognised.#	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Safeguarding Policy/Child Safeguarding Training. #</li> </ul>
9.#	Risk of harm not being reported properly and promptly. #	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reporting Procedure. #</li> </ul>
10.#	Risk of harm due to inappropriate use of children/young person's personal data#	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Data Protection Policy. #</li> </ul>

### Implementation:

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children/young people safe from harm while availing of our service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on **1st May 2027**, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

**Julie Doyle**  
Chairman  
Irish Dragon Boat Association

For further information contact our Relevant Person Anita Comerford, at [safeguarding@dragonboat.ie](mailto:safeguarding@dragonboat.ie)