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## Child Safeguarding in Sport

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| <b>Title of the practice</b>             | <b>Safeguarding Audit Framework</b>  |
| <b>Country</b>                           | Ireland  |
| <b>Organisation(s) responsible</b>       | Sport Ireland  |
| <b>Main topic addressed</b>              | Leadership and Key Roles, Safeguarding Training, Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures, Volunteer Recruitment and Support, Behaviour and Equality, Communication.   |
| <b>Type of resource/practice</b>         | <b>Strategy and policy frameworks</b>  |
| <b>Target group(s)</b>                   | All Sports Clubs sand National Governing Bodies  |
| <b>Timing</b>                            | Completed approx. every 2 years  |
| <b>Language</b>                          | English  |
| <b>Brief description of the practice</b> | <p>The main purpose of the Sport Ireland Safeguarding Audit Framework is to support National Governing Bodies strengthen their adherence to safeguarding policies and procedures thereby ensuring that children and young people partaking in sport are protected.</p> <p>The Audit Framework provides NGBs with a tool to assess their levels of adherence and that of their clubs to child safeguarding requirements, identifying any gaps or areas which need to be strengthened.</p>   |
| <b>Context and objectives</b>            | <p><b>Context:</b> Ensuring children and young people partake in sport and physical activity in a safe and welcoming environment is of paramount importance.</p> <p>It is crucial to ensure that current best practice is followed while also complying with relevant legislation. This is paramount to the successful protection of children and young people in sport.</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Ensure that sporting organisations at all levels across Ireland are adequately structured and resourced to provide a safe environment in which all children and young people can partake in sport and physical activity.</p> |
| <b>Steps/activities of the practice</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identification of a suitable window for completion of the Framework in line with the organisation's needs.</li> <li>2. Technical elements - Familiarisation with the online platform, login details, etc.</li> <li>3. Review questionnaire.</li> </ol>   |

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|   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Complete questionnaire.</li> <li>5. Identify any areas which require follow up action.</li> <li>6. Implement actions as required.</li> <li>7. Update questionnaire as changes are implemented.</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Resources required</b>               | <p>Online Questionnaire</p> <p>Human Resources</p> <p>Online Platform Hosting Platform</p> <p>Budget</p> <p>Supports</p>   |
| <b>Achievements and outcomes</b>        | <p>NGBs and clubs will be able to review their adherence to safeguarding requirements and identify areas which require attention.</p> <p>The Framework Tool provides organisations with an action planning function to help manage the process.</p> <p>Sport Ireland will gain an understanding of the levels of safeguarding adherence in NGBs and clubs.</p> |
| <b>Challenges and limitations</b>       | <p>Time.</p> <p>Human Resources for NGBs and clubs.</p> <p>Understanding the importance of completing the Framework.</p>   |
| <b>Follow-up ideas and future plans</b> | <p>Re-issue the Audit Framework to NGBs and clubs in the future.</p> <p>Evaluate tool measuring how effective it was/was not.</p> <p>Review how we can improve and run audit at regular intervals.</p>   |
| <b>Any other comment</b>                | <p>We recognise and acknowledge the work being done by National Governing Bodies, and particularly by National Children's Officers to create a culture of safety that promotes the welfare of children and youngpeople and wanted to create a tool that helps support the work they are already doing.</p>   |
| <b>Further information</b>              | <p>Can be found by contacting the Sport Ireland Ethics unit or <a href="https://sportireland.ie/safeguarding-guidance.pdf">safeguarding-guidance.pdf (sportireland.ie)</a></p>   |