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Child Safeguarding in Sport

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Title of the practice	Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statements
Country	Ireland
Organisation(s) responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of the Taoiseach • Tusla • An Garda Síochána • Sport Ireland
Main topic addressed	Managing child safeguarding in sport, risk assessment
Type of resource/practice	Codes of conduct and codes of ethics
Target group(s)	Child Safeguarding Officers
Timing	2015 - Present
Language	English
Brief description of the practice	<p>Sport Ireland is committed to ensuring that the best interests of children and young people attending our services are of paramount importance. Our guiding principles and this guidance document are underpinned by national policy and legislation in Republic of Ireland - Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, and the requirements under The Children First Act 2015.</p> <p>This guidance is also informed by Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Child Care Act 1991, Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 and National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016.</p> <p>Sport Ireland provides National Governing Bodies with support and materials to help implement the above-mentioned legislation to create a culture of safety which promotes the welfare and protection of children. This legislation states that organisations working with children and young people are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep children safe from harm while they are using the service. • Carry out a risk assessment to identify whether a child or young person could be harmed while receiving services. • Develop a Child Safeguarding Statement that outlines the policies and procedures which are in place to manage the risks that have been identified. • Appoint a relevant person to be the first point of contact in respect of the organisation's Child Safeguarding Statement. <p>This legislation comes from the Children First Act 2015 and the support documentation from Tusla in their Children's First Guidance.</p>
Context and objectives	<p>Context: Children First National Guidance 2017 clearly states that organisations providing services to children must ensure they prevent, as far as practicable, deliberate harm or abuse to the children while availing them of their services. Organisations are required to carry out and implement the actions outlined above to meet their legal obligations under the Children First Act 2015.</p>

	<p>Objectives: Sport Ireland seeks to support National Governing Bodies to meet their child safeguarding and child protection responsibilities cognisant of, and in line with, requirements under policy/legislation and best practice.</p> <p>It does this through the provision of guidance and information in relation to the carrying out of a risk assessment, development of a Child Safeguarding Statement and the development and implementation of policies and procedures for safeguarding and protection of children and young people.</p> <p>The Child Safeguarding Statement is a written statement that specifies the service being provided and the principle that a child availing themselves of the service is safe from harm.</p> <p>The risk assessment considers the potential for harm to children whilst they are in the relevant organisation's care. This risk assessment precedes the Child Safeguarding Statement (Section 11 (1b) Children First Act 2015 (ROI)) and informs the development of safeguarding policies and procedures to manage the risk identified.</p> <p>Sport Ireland has developed a supporting document which creates a generic sports guidance document including templates for documents that can be adjusted to fit the needs of specific sports. This document has been created based on the Children First Act and Tusla's Children First Guidance.</p>
<p>Steps/activities of the practice</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To keep children safe from harm while they are using your service. 2. Carry out a risk assessment to identify whether a child or young person could be harmed while receiving your services. 3. Develop a Child Safeguarding Statement that outlines the policies and procedures which are in place to manage the risks that have been identified, including a Safe Recruitment Procedure. 4. Manage risks identified in risk assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement. 5. Appoint a relevant person to be the first point of contact in respect of the organisation's Child Safeguarding Statement. 6. Showcase the Child Safeguarding Statement and risk assessment with club or sport organisation.
<p>Resources required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources • Up-to-date and accurate policies and procedures readily available for sport organisations. • Legislation updates.
<p>Achievements and outcomes</p>	<p>Outcomes: For all sports organisations to have and display child safeguarding statement, to have completed a risk assessment and implement the correct policies and procedures for their sporting organisation.</p> <p>Impact: This will support organisations to meet their legal obligations under the Children First Act 2015, to showcase the importance of safeguarding in sport organisations and promote a child centred environment for young people in sport.</p> <p>Improvements: To consistently review and improve on safeguarding statements and risk assessments to ensure there are safe environments for children participating in their chosen sports.</p>
<p>Challenges and limitations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources • Government Legislation Changes • Time
<p>Follow-up ideas and future plans</p>	<p>Review the process and present potential improvements where possible.</p>
<p>Further information</p>	<p>gov.ie - Children First Act 2015 (www.gov.ie)</p> <p>safeguarding-guidance_0.pdf (sportireland.ie)</p>