

Rosses Athletic club

Child Safeguarding Policy

Mission

The objective of Rosses Athletic Club is to promote athletics in The Rosses, and surrounding area, in Co.Donegal. It operates in a safe, caring, friendly and fun-loving environment and endeavours to provide the necessary coaching expertise required to enable young athletes of all abilities to reach their full potential. It lays special emphasis on fair play, community and sportsmanship and works actively to encourage, the development of such attributes as, teamwork and leadership.

Club Principles

The Club and those involved with the Club will abide by the following principles and statements:

- All young people within Rosses AC, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability, or disability have the right to be protected.
- All young people participating in sport have a right to do so in a safe environment.
- All adults involved with the Club will provide a safe, positive, and fun, sporting experience for young people.
- All volunteers, coaches and officials will understand and be supported in their role and responsibility regarding the duty of care of young people.
- All suspicious incidents and all allegations will be taken seriously, managed, and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.
- The Club will assist coaches, volunteers, and officials to remain up to date with the latest safeguarding and child protection issues.
- The Club will appoint a Children's Officer/s to deal with issues concerning child welfare at the club.

Club Commitment to Child Welfare

To maintain an open and transparent approach we have adopted the Athletics Ireland (AAI's) Child Protection Policy Statement and Safeguarding Statement, related Policies, Codes of Conduct and Guidelines as our own, in some places customised for our club.

We have performed a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and adopted appropriate policies and guidelines to address the child safety risks identified. Details of this review can be seen on the Child Safeguarding Statement.

We expect all members, parents, officials, coaches, and volunteers to read the policies to understand and comply with the Club Rules.

Athletics Ireland Child Protection Policy Statement

Athletics Ireland acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with legislation, best practice, and Sport Ireland requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at Athletics Ireland in a safe and child-centred environment

- are protected from abuse whilst participating in athletics or outside of the activity.

Athletics Ireland acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy Athletics Ireland will :

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify, and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed, and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in Athletics Ireland. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed every two years, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- as required by Tusla (the Child and Family Agency) and Sport Ireland.
- as a result of any other significant change or event.

Club Children's Officer and Designated Liason Person

We recognise and respect the invaluable work of our Club Children's Officer and Designated Liason Persons and the varied and complex Roles and Responsibilities they fulfil. The Club Children's Officer helps to create a child centred environment that promotes the welfare of children and young people engaged in our sporting activities. This guidance will act as a support for the CCO's/DLP's helping them meet their child safeguarding and child protection responsibilities.

The role of a Club Children's Officer (CCO)

- The CCO should be a member of the Club Management Committee.
- Safe Recruitment and Selection of Coaches and Leaders.
- Garda Vetting is one of the key elements of the safe recruitment process.
- The CCO should ensure that Coaches, Leaders and Parents are vetted in line with AAI Garda Vetting Policy prior to taking on their role within the club.
- Liase with Athletics Ireland and/or local sports partnership to secure Child Safeguarding Training for coaches/committee members within the first 6 months of taking up a new role.
- CCO should monitor the 4 year refresh of Garda Vetting and SG1.
- Understand the Athletics Ireland Code of Ethics & Child Safeguarding Guidance.
- The CCO should be knowledgeable about child protection and undertake any training considered necessary i.e. Sport Ireland Safeguarding 1 and 2 courses.
- Encouraging the participation of parents /guardians within club activities to ensure maximum enjoyment and participation for each child.
- Acts as a support to Coaches and Sports Leaders on Child Protection issues/concerns.
- Be a presence at juvenile training sessions.
- Ensure that children know how and whom they can report their concerns to within the club.
- If there are grounds for concern about the safety or welfare of a young person you should react to the concern.
- Act as the Relevant Person with responsibility for the club Child Safeguarding Statement.

Role of a Designated Liason Person

This role sits with the Club Chairperson unless another committee member has been appointed. The DLP is responsible for reporting allegations or suspicions of child abuse and welfare issues to Tusla or the Gardai (Statutory Authorities). They will work with the Club Children's Officer to act as a resource for children at committee level

- **DLP reports any suspected cases of child neglect or abuse to a Duty Social Worker in the Tusla Child and Family Agency or An Garda Síochána.**
- **They should also inform the National Children's Officer / Mandated Person that a report has been submitted to the Statutory Authorities.**
- **Act as a resource for volunteers/coaches/parents who have a child protection or welfare concern.**
- **The DLP should be knowledgeable about child protection and undertake any training considered necessary i.e. Sport Ireland Safeguarding 1 and 3 courses.**
- **The DLP should have knowledge of the Safeguarding Guidance and relevant child protection legislation (Children First Act 2015, National Vetting Bureau Act 2012-2016) and be familiar with local support services.**
- **In consultation with the person who raised the concern and the Club Children's Officer, the DLP will decide if reasonable grounds for a concern exist.**