

Information on Child Welfare and Protection



The IOA is fully committed to implementing the recommendations of the Irish Sports Council in regard to child safety.

To achieve this, each orienteering club should

- Encourage all committee members to attend a Child Welfare and Protection (Code of Ethics) Basic Awareness workshop.
- Appoint a club Children's Officer, who should attend a Child Welfare and Protection (Code of Ethics) workshop for club Children's Officers
- Appoint a Designated Liaison Person (may be the club Children's Officer), who should attend a Child Welfare and Protection (Code of Ethics) Designated Liaison Person workshop.

All three workshops were developed by the Irish Sports Council and are certified by them. They are presented around the country by local sports partnerships. Contact details of all sports partnerships can be found on the IOA website.

Content of the Basic Awareness workshop (3 hours)

Overview of Code of Ethics:

- Core values and guiding principles
- Roles and responsibilities of people (coaches, club members, parents, young people)
- Clubs and organisations policy and procedures
- Putting guidelines into practice
- Statutory guidelines and advice on protection of children.

Content of Children's Officers workshop (3 hours)

- Communicating with young people
- Dealing with safeguarding issues
- Reflections on the role of the club Children's Officer

Content of the Designated Liaison Person workshop (3 hours)

- Describe how the child protection system and its associated processes work.
- List the role and responsibilities of the Designated Liaison Person in relation to protecting and safeguarding children.
- Identify the categories and indicators of abuse.
- Communicate with parents and/or agencies as appropriate.

Role of the Designated Liaison Person/Children's Officer

- Report to the national Designated Officer of the IOA.
- Be familiar with and able to carry out reporting procedures as outlined in Sections 5.13 to 5.17 of the Code of Ethics
- Advise club committee on issues of confidentiality, record keeping and data protection.
- Know the IOA policy.

Irish Sports Council Safe Sport App

This is a free information and guidance tool for everyone involved in sport for children and young people.

It is available for free download on iOS (included iPad and iPhones), Android tablets and Android phones.

There are four key areas of the app which can be accessed from the home screen:

- Leader/coach
- Parent/guardian
- Club/organisation
- Child/young person

www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/Participation/Code_of_Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-App/

Garda vetting

Please note that garda vetting should be renewed approximately every five years. All club committee members should complete the process if they have not done so within the previous five years.

Garda vetting forms can be downloaded from the IOA website. There is also one attached to this information sheet.