

Paul O'Sullivan,
Operations Manager,
Irish Orienteering Association,
58 Griffith Avenue,
Dublin 9,

Dear Paul,

As you are aware Sport Ireland is fully committed to ensuring that young people are safeguarded in their participation in sport in the island of Ireland.

Sport Ireland would like to acknowledge the current good work being done by National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB) in ensuring a safe environment for children and young people within their respective organisations.

However it is critical to remember that all National Governing Bodies of Sport have a responsibility to protect children from harm and to abide by government legislation and guidance in responding to safeguarding and reporting child protection concerns. This responsibility exists wherever such concerns might arise, whether inside or outside sport.

Sport Ireland would like to remind all National Governing Bodies of Sport that the Children First Act commenced on the 11th of December 2017.

Please see below link to press release from DCYA and also a link to the Children First Act 2015 supporting documents:

<https://www.dcy.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?Docid=4429&CatID=11&mn=&StartDate=1+January+2017>

<http://www.tusla.ie/children-first/support-documents>

There are 5 parts to the Children First Act and Part 2 and 3 are most relevant to Sport Organisations:

Part 2 – Child safeguarding statement is a written statement that specifies the service provided outlining the principles and procedures to ensure the safety and well-being of children. (Section 11(1))

A Child Safeguarding Statement must be in place in every National Governing Body by 11th March 2018 (Sport Ireland will circulate a template in January that organisations may find useful).

Part 3 -Mandated person is a person specified in *Schedule 2*:

This refers to a safeguarding officer, child protection officer or other person (howsoever described) who is **employed** for the purpose of performing the child welfare and protection function.

As set out in the Children First Act, all relevant organisations including National Governing Bodies are now required as of the 11th of December by law to ensure that the mandated person is in place.

Whilst both of these are requirements under the act, the mere compliance with the act is not sufficient. You are expected to ensure that these are strongly promoted and readily accessible to all members.

Please ensure that this is the case for your National Governing Body.

Regards,



John Treacy – CEO Sport Ireland.