

Child Safeguarding Statement

The Irish Orienteering Association provides various sporting activities and opportunities for young people through participation in clubs, regional/provincial events and through our national teams.

The Irish Orienteering Association is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our IOA Safeguarding Policies our volunteers, working with our young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop.

The Irish Orienteering Association's written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents required to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified are contained in the following categories: Club and Coaching Practices; Complaints & Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications; and General Risk of Harm.

The Risk Assessment is undertaken annually.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, ([the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice](#)) In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

The Irish Orienteering Association has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of volunteers to work with children in our activities
- Procedures for information to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities

The National Children's Officer for *The Irish Orienteering Association* is: Ciarán Donaghy.

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our organisation is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on: July 2021

Signed: Ciarán Donaghy Date: 15 July 2019

(On behalf of the The Irish Orienteering Association)

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact Ciarán Donaghy National Children's Officer childrensofficer@orienteering.ie