

National Children's Officer Annual Report May 2021.

1. Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement:

This requirement was addressed during the past year. All clubs have emailed me to confirm that they have completed their Child Safeguarding Statement as well as their Risk Assessment (Child Protection as opposed to Health and Safety) which is a legal requirement.

2. NGB Safeguarding Audit:

In 2019 a Safeguarding Audit of the IOA was completed and submitted to Sport Ireland (see Annual Report 2020). Additional information and updates to policies were submitted in 2020. The one outstanding issue that we are working on now is:

2.4 All of our workers / volunteers at ALL levels are provided with safeguarding training.

We are working on this at the moment (see Safeguarding Training below).

3. Governance Audit:

As part of a governance audit we were asked to update our document '*Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Sport for Young People in Irish Orienteering Association*'. It was fully updated and renamed '*Code of Conduct and Good Practice for Sport for Young People in Irish Orienteering Association*' to avoid confusion with another governance document. It was reviewed by the auditors and subsequently approved and adopted by the IOA.

4. Disciplinary committee:

The Child Protection in Sport Unit (part of the NSPCC) recommended that we have a pool of people to form a disciplinary committee to deal with, if necessary, any *Poor Practice Cases* that might arise. These are cases that are not serious enough to be referred to Tusla but must be dealt with within the IOA. We have done this.

5. Sport Ireland Safeguarding training:

In Sport Ireland's *Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Sport*, it states that: *Sport Ireland requires all NGB's to ensure all members working with children and young people complete the Sport Ireland Safeguarding workshops.*

Also, as mentioned above in the NGB Safeguarding Audit, the one outstanding issue that we are working on is:

All of our workers / volunteers at ALL levels are provided with safeguarding training.

In response to this, the IOA has over the last few months run four Safeguarding 1 training courses. These were delivered by an orienteer and because of Covid-19 restrictions these took place on-line which many people found more convenient.

1.	22 nd	February 2021	12 attended
2.	4 th	March 2021	12 attended
3.	19 th	April 2021	10 attended
4.	26	April 2021	8 attended

We intend running more Safeguarding 1 courses in the future and hope that a lot more people will take part. At the moment we expect any adult travelling with the junior squad (JHI, EYOC etc.) to have completed the training and we hope that all adults attending training sessions with the juniors in the future would consider doing it as soon as possible.

Note that Safeguarding training courses are more often run by Sports Partnerships, and it is not necessary to do one run by the IOA. Details of upcoming Safeguarding training courses can be found online.

6. Club Safeguarding Self-Assessment Framework:

Sport Ireland launched the Club Safeguarding Self-Assessment Framework on 30 March 2021.

The main purpose of the Sport Ireland Safeguarding Audit framework is to support National Governing Bodies to strengthen their adherence to safeguarding policies and procedures thereby ensuring that children and young people partaking in sport are protected.

All Sport Ireland recognised NGBs are required to engage with this process and ensure that all clubs complete the Framework.

All clubs who have children or young people participating are expected to complete the Framework.

An information meeting was held via zoom on 19th May for all Club Children's Officers and committee members to provide guidance on completing it. The template was sent out to clubs on 20th May and we hope that they will all be completed and returned by 28th May (the day before the AGM).

7. Courses attended:

1. 22nd July 2020: 'Active Consent'
2. 29th July 2020: Tusla Online Portal Demonstration
3. 16th September 2020: 'Safe Recruitment' training.
4. 20th January 2021: Referral process to DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service).
5. 20th January 2021: 'Impact of domestic violence on children in sport'.
6. 2nd March 2021: Safe Event training (part 1)
7. 4th March 2021: Safe Event training (part 2)
8. 10th March: 2021 Safeguarding training
9. 14th April: 2021 'Responding to concerns and cases'

I wish to thank the clubs' children's officers and committee members for all they have done and for the cooperation from the clubs themselves.

Finally, I wish to thank those members of the committee who have assisted me in many ways over the last year.

Ciarán Donaghy (National Children's Officer).