

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT



Orienteering Ireland (OI) provides sporting activities and opportunities for young people through participation in our clubs, events, squads, and training programmes. We are committed to safeguarding children at all levels of our organisation as laid out in our safeguarding policies and legal obligations.

Principles To Safeguard Children From Harm

This statement recognises that in accordance with our policies and legislation, that the welfare and interests of children are of utmost importance. The aim of our safeguarding policies are to ensure that children have a developmental and enjoyable experience of our sport, while taking part in a safe and fun environment.

Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Children's First Act 2015, we have reviewed our Child Safeguarding Statement, and conducted a risk assessment of the potential for harm* to children when participating in our activities under the following headings: *Club & Coaching Practices, Complaints & Discipline, Reporting Procedures, Communications & Social Media, General Risk of Harm*. The list below outlines identified risks and the policy in place to manage these risks.

Identified Risk	Policy in Place
*Risk of harm includes assault, ill treatment, or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to affect the child's health, development, welfare, or sexual abuse of a child.	OI Code of Conduct & Good Practice
Risk of harm of abuse when hosting an activity and/or an away trip	OI Code of Conduct & Good Practice
Risk of harm of online and social media abuse	OI Code of Conduct & Good Practice
Bullying of a child	OI Code of Conduct & Good Practice

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been prepared in accordance with the Children First Act 2015 (Children First: National Guidance and Tusla Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure & Practice).

In addition to our risk assessment, OI also has the following procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are partaking in our activities:

- Procedure to manage allegations of abuse or misconduct by contracted persons or volunteers.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of contracted person and volunteers.
- Procedures to access child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedures for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to the statutory authorities.
- Procedures for appointing relevant persons at all levels.

The relevant person in OI is **CIARÁN DONAGHY**, who can be contacted at childrensofficer@orienteering.ie

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process which OI are committed to. This Child Safeguarding Statement is binding to all members of OI as required by the Children First Act 2015 and will be reviewed within 24 months of the date below.

OI Chairperson:

Paul O'Sullivan-Hourihan

Date: **25-Sep-2023**

OI Childrens Officer:

Ciarán Donaghy

Date: **25-Sep-2023**



For any queries on this statement, please contact our Children's Officer

orienteering.ie

Use this QR Code for more information on Child Safeguarding