

Child Safeguarding Statement

To Be Reviewed: 2026/2027 Season

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1.0 Introduction

This Child Safeguarding Statement provides an overview of the measures implemented by the Dunshaughlin Rockets Basketball Club to ensure the safety and protection of children and young people participating in our programmes.

2.0 Nature of Service and Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

Our club prioritises the welfare and safety of our participants. We are dedicated to creating a safe environment for them to engage in the sport of basketball. The club has established various procedures to safeguard all children and young people involved in our programmes. Our volunteers and committee members are committed to ensuring the protection and safety of children and young people during their involvement in any of our activities.

The club follows essential procedures and guidelines for maintaining safe practices, which include:

- Mandatory Garda Vetting and Child Protection Training for all volunteers and committee members.
- Code of Conduct for Players, Volunteers, and Parents/Guardians.
- Dunshaughlin Rockets Basketball Club Health and Safety Policy.

The club's safeguarding policy is based on the guidelines and legislation provided in the following documents:

- Basketball Ireland Code of Ethics for Children's Sport 2013.
- Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport – Irish Sports Council (COE reviewed in 2006).
- Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Dept. of Health & Children 2011.
- Our Duty to Care, Dept. of Health & Children 2002.
- Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2006.
- The Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998.
- Withholding of Information Act 2008.

3.0 Policy Statement

In alignment with Basketball Ireland, the Dunshaughlin Rockets Child Safeguarding Policy is dedicated to implementing good practices that protect children from harm. We fully accept and recognise our responsibility to provide a safe environment that prioritises the well-being of young people. To achieve this, we commit to the following actions:

- Develop an understanding of the issues that may pose harm to children and young people.
- Foster an open environment by appointing a dedicated Designated Liaison Person whom young people can approach when they need someone to talk to.
- Appoint another designated person (referred to as the "Deputy Liaison Person") and publicize their contact details within the club.
- Adopt child-centered coaching styles that prioritise the needs and safety of children and young people individuals.
- Implement safeguarding guidelines through Codes of Conduct for all members, including coaches, committee members, parents, and other volunteers.
- Establish meticulous recruitment, selection, and management procedures that ensure regular support and supervision for volunteers.
- Ensure that all individuals above 16 years of age working with younger club members undergo Garda vetting in accordance with Basketball Ireland and Children's First requirements.
- Incorporate complaints, grievance, and disciplinary procedures into our constitution.
- Share relevant information about concerns regarding the safeguarding of children with relevant parties.
- Provide necessary information to the committee as required.
- Promote good and safe playing practices.
- Participate in available training programs offered by various agencies and strengthen our connections with these organisations.
- Regularly review and adapt our Safeguarding policies to align with current laws and legislation (minimum review every three years).
- Develop specific procedures addressing bullying, away trips, transportation, and the use of photography.
- Provide a comprehensive Code of Conduct for parents, coaches, and children that clearly outlines their rights and responsibilities.

4.0 Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. The following page has a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Risk Identified	Procedure in Place to Manage Identified Risk
Bullying of a child: Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child by a member, club representative, partner organisation or general public.	• Child Protection Policy • Garda Vetting Policy • Child Protection Awareness Training
Risk of harm including assault, ill treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare or sexual abuse of a child.	• Child Protection Policy • Garda Vetting Policy • Child Protection Awareness Training • Complaints Procedure
Risk of harm of online abuse through social media and/or unauthorised photography.	• Child Protection Policy • Garda Vetting Policy • Picture & Video Consent Policy • Child Protection Awareness Training

5.0 Procedures

In alignment with Basketball Ireland, the Rockets Safeguarding Policy is dedicated to implementing good practices that protect children from harm. We fully accept and recognise our responsibility to

provide a safe environment that prioritises the well-being of children and young people.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed to comply with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure, and Practice. In addition to the procedures outlined in our risk assessment, the following procedures further support our commitment to safeguarding children while they avail of our services:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against Dunshaughlin Rockets Basketball Club volunteers of a child availing of our service.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of volunteers.
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons relevant to the club whom are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

6.0 Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. The club 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 service. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

7.0 Signatory

Signed:

John Irwin
Committee Chair
Dunshaughlin Rockets Basketball Club

For queries, please contact, child protection at rockets.clo@gmail.com