

Triathlon Ireland Code of Conduct for Club

Children's Officers/Safeguarding Officer

Club Children's Officers (CCO's/Safeguarding Officers/Welfare Officers are essential to ensure the safety, well-being, and positive experience of children and vulnerable members/adults at risk. The role of a Club Children's Officer is to safeguard and promote the welfare of children involved in the club's activities. As part of this role the CCO should commit to uphold the principles outlined in this code of conduct. Adherence to this Code of Conduct is crucial for creating a safe and enjoyable environment for children involved in club activities. Any breach of this code of conduct could result in disciplinary action by Triathlon Ireland and could jeopardise future participation within the sport. This code of conduct extends to all Triathlon Ireland activities, club sessions and events.

1. Commitment to Child Welfare:

- CCO should prioritise the safety, well-being, and best interests of children and vulnerable members/adults at risk involved in the club's activities.
- CCO should strive to create an environment that is inclusive, supportive, and free from discrimination, harassment, or bullying.

2. Respect and Dignity:

- CCO should treat all children and vulnerable members/adults at risk with respect, dignity, and fairness, irrespective of their age, civil status, disability, family status, gender, housing assistance payment, membership of the traveller community, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender expression and identity (Statement from the Equal Status Acts, IHREC.)
- CCO should listen to and consider the opinions and concerns of children, valuing their perspectives.

3. Professionalism and Integrity:

- CCO should conduct themselves in a professional manner, adhering to the highest ethical standards and promoting positive role modelling for young athletes.
- CCO should not engage in any form of inappropriate behaviour, including but not limited to physical, emotional, sexual, verbal abuse or bullying.
- CCO should maintain the confidentiality of all information related to children, except where disclosure is required by law or necessary for the protection of the child.

4. Collaboration and Communication:

- CCO should work collaboratively with other club members, parents, and guardians to ensure a safe and positive environment for children.

- CCO should communicate openly and transparently with relevant stakeholders regarding child protection matters.
- CCO should engage with the Triathlon Ireland safeguarding teams education and information opportunities.

5. Reporting Concerns and Documentation:

- CCO should promptly report any concerns or suspicions of child abuse, neglect, or misconduct to the club Designated Liasion Person and follow the club's and Triathlon Ireland's reporting procedures.
- CCO should keep accurate records of all reported incidents, maintaining confidentiality and adhering to data protection legislation.

6. Education and continuous improvement:

- CCO must complete the required education - Safeguarding 1/Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport and Safeguarding 2/ Designated Safeguarding Children's Officer and participate in development activities to enhance their knowledge and skills in safeguarding practices and procedures, such as conflict resolution, cultural competency training and anti-bullying awareness education.
- CCO should stay informed about child protection policies, procedures, and best practices.
- CCO should actively seek and participate in relevant training to enhance understanding of child welfare issues.
- CCO should engage in regular self-reflection and seek feedback to continually improve effectiveness as a Club Children's Officer.
- CCO should remain open to constructive criticism and take appropriate action to address any identified areas for improvement.
- CCO should engage with the Triathlon Ireland safeguarding teams education and information opportunities.

.7. Compliance with Policies and legislation:

- Legislation: CCO should ensure club compliance by ensuring the club safeguarding risk assessment and child safeguarding statement are up to date.
- CCO should adhere to all club and Triathlon Ireland policies and procedures related to child protection and welfare.
- CCO should actively promote and enforce the implementation of these policies within the club.

8. Monitoring and Oversight:

- CCO should assist in the ongoing monitoring and oversight of child protection measures within the club.
- CCO should contribute to the continuous improvement of policies and practices to better safeguard children.
- CCO should monitor trends in the club including junior dropout rates, recurrent incidents with a particular coach etc.

9. Social Media Guidelines

- All members of Triathlon Ireland are expected to uphold a respectful and responsible presence on social media. This includes refraining from posting or sharing content that is offensive, discriminatory, defamatory or otherwise harmful to the reputation of the organisation, its members or the wider community. Members should avoid engaging in online arguments, bullying or harassment and must respect the privacy of others at all times. Any use of the organisation's name, logo or images must be authorised and in line with official guidelines. By maintaining a positive and professional online presence members contribute to a safe and supportive sporting environment for everyone.

[Triathlon Ireland Safeguarding Contacts](#)

[Triathlon Ireland Safeguarding Policies](#)