

Triathlon Ireland Safeguarding Policy Statement

Triathlon Ireland is committed to providing an environment which is safe, inclusive and respectful for all those involved in our sport across Ireland. This safeguarding policy statement outlines our dedication to ensuring the protection and welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults/adults at risk within the sport, irrespective of age, civil status, disability, family status, gender, housing assistance payment, membership of the traveller community, race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation, gender expression and identity.

Triathlon Ireland endeavors to cultivate an atmosphere of trust and support, providing a space which allows members to participate to the best of their ability in a fun and safe environment that is free from bullying and intimidation. We shall take all practicable measures to protect our members from any form of abuse, harm, discrimination or degrading treatment and to uphold their rights.

Every member of Triathlon Ireland and those involved in our sport deserves to be treated, at all times, with respect and dignity and all members should show respect and understanding for other members' rights, safety and welfare. Members should conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the organisation and adheres to safeguarding policies, guidelines, the TI Code of Ethics and TI Codes of Conduct.

Duty of Care

Triathlon Ireland recognises that it has a duty of care, to protect all children and vulnerable adults in our sport and to safeguard their welfare.

We will do this by

- Promoting a culture of safety and respect at every level of participation.
- Ensuring the wellbeing and protection of all individuals, particularly children and vulnerable adults
- Providing safeguarding education or information on where training can be accessed and support for coaches, volunteers, and staff to uphold safeguarding standards.
- Maintaining robust policies and procedures that comply with national legislation and best practices across the island of Ireland.
- Ensuring everyone involved in the organisation understands their role and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding are clear.
- Making sure that individuals know how to raise concerns or where to go for help
- Ensuring anyone who raises a concern is supported and treated with respect and fairness.
- Maintaining records and storing information relating to safeguarding concerns. Ensuring records are stored safely and passed on in the best interest of a child or vulnerable adult.
- Ensuring there is an appropriately trained safeguarding personnel at all junior clubs and events.

Implementation and Compliance

Triathlon Ireland is committed to:

- Ensuring organisational legislative compliance, thereby guaranteeing that Triathlon Ireland, as an organisation, complies with legislation, best practice, and funding body requirements.
- Regularly reviewing safeguarding policies to ensure alignment with evolving standards and legislation. This includes identifying and addressing any policy gaps that may lead to harm and ensuring all necessary policies are effectively in place.
- Providing comprehensive guidance and support to clubs, members, and partners to uphold safeguarding practices. This guidance will be delivered in various formats to facilitate effective implementation, and communication channels will be established in consultation with members.
- Collaborating with statutory bodies and other organisations to bolster safeguarding efforts, seeking external advice and support where deemed necessary.
- Handling sensitive information with utmost care, disclosing it only when essential for the protection of individuals, thereby maintaining strict confidentiality.

Safeguarding Policies & Statement

Triathlon Ireland displays a Child Safeguarding Statement which is reviewed annually.

Triathlon Ireland has completed an organisational safeguarding risk assessment which informs the Safeguarding policies and is reviewed annually.

Triathlon Ireland Safeguarding Policies set out guidelines, procedures and best practice to assist those working with children and vulnerable adults in our sport. These policies apply to all those involved in our sport as members, participants, volunteers, coaches, officials, contractors, suppliers. It is the responsibility of all adults involved in triathlon to actively promote best practice standards whilst being ever vigilant and aware of their responsibilities. Everyone involved in the organisation has a role in safeguarding and is accountable for their actions.

The Sport Ireland and Child Protection in Sport Unit guidance documents should be used where Triathlon Ireland has not published specific guidelines.

Policies and guidance specifically related to juniors are mandatory. Any deviation from these guidelines due to exceptional circumstances must be discussed with the TI National Safeguarding Lead and duly documented by the club.

Key Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

The Triathlon Ireland safeguarding risk assessment and policies are informed by the key principles to Safeguard children from harm.

Importance of childhood - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in sport. All children and young people have the right to enjoy their sport in a safe environment that values their voices and respects their rights

Needs of the child - All children's sport experiences should be guided by what is best for children. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical, and personal needs of young people.

Integrity in relationships - Adults interacting with children in sport are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.

Fair Play - All children's sports should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasised, and organisers should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.

Quality atmosphere & ethos - Children's sport should be conducted in a safe, positive, and encouraging atmosphere.

Competition - Competition is an essential element of sport and should be encouraged in an age-appropriate manner. A child centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.

Equality - All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background, or political persuasion.

Zero tolerance - Triathlon Ireland will take a zero tolerance approach to behaviour leading to or having the potential to lead to harm to children.

Safeguarding Personnel

Trained and informed personnel at all levels will support the perpetuation of best practice at organisational, club and community level.

Triathlon Ireland

Triathlon Ireland will have a [Mandated Person](#) in place who is also National Safeguarding/Children's Officer and a Liaison Person.

Triathlon Ireland programmes will have staff who have up to date vetting, safeguarding qualifications and safeguarding inductions.

The Triathlon Ireland board will have safeguarding induction and specific board training.

The Triathlon Ireland High Performance team will have appropriate staff who have up to date vetting, safeguarding qualifications and inductions. The HP team will also have an identification verifier for Garda Vetting.

Clubs

Clubs with junior members will have Club Children's Officers and in ROI clubs will also have a Designated Liaison Person.

All those working with children and vulnerable adults will undergo safe recruitment processes and hold appropriate vetting and safeguarding qualifications.

Events

Events where juniors are taking part will have an Event Safeguarding Lead.

Technical Officials working regularly at junior events will have appropriate safeguarding qualifications.

Any individuals working regularly in a contract role at events will undergo specific safeguarding requirements.

Contact Information

National Children's Officer/Mandated Person: Niamh O'Gorman, niamh@triathlonireland.com

Designated Person & Safeguarding Admin: Mary Crosbie, mary@triathlonireland.com

Guiding Documents for Policy

Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 (ROI)

Children First Act 2015 (ROI)

Children (NI) Order 1995 (NI)

Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People (NI) 2017 (NI)

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (NI)

European Convention of Human Rights 1953

Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Sport 2019 (Sport Ireland & Sport NI)

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007 (NI) Standards for Safeguarding in Sport

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

[Triathlon Ireland Safeguarding Policies and Codes of Conduct](#)

[Triathlon Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement](#)

[Triathlon Ireland Reporting Portal](#)