



Cork Climbing Club

Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1 – Cork Climbing Club Information

Cork Climbing Club (CCC) is a non-profit organisation and member of Mountaineering Ireland offering the sport of rock climbing in Cork, Ireland and abroad. It provides various, activities and opportunities for adults primarily, but also for young people and children taking part in the Get Climbing Cork Initiative (GCCCI). A separate guidance document which details the aims, structure, operations and governance of the GCCCI is available on request.

Cork Climbing Club details:

- Name: Cork Climbing Club
- Sport: Rock Climbing
- Location: Cork city
- Size: 82 members
- Activities: Training, indoor and outdoor climbing and bouldering, rock climbing trips

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

Cork Climbing Club is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of Mountaineering Ireland Safeguarding Policies, our staff, both volunteers and employed working with our young people, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport. The following set of principles are adhered to:

- **Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood is understood and valued by everyone involved in our sport.
- **Needs of the child** - All children's sport experiences is guided by what is best for children. This means that adults 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 sport 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 can become an element of climbing and is 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 are valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

Section 3 - Risk Assessment

Cork Climbing Club's written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents required to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the categories below.

Note: the policies referred to in the risk assessment below have been developed by Mountaineering Ireland for use by MI and its affiliated clubs. They are available for viewing by the general public on Mountaineering Ireland's website. Where there is a reference to procedures or forms in the risk assessment below, these have been developed specifically for the Get Climbing Cork initiative by the Cork Climbing Club Children's Officer in consultation and with the approval of Mountaineering Ireland's National Children's Officer.

Abbreviations:

CCC: Cork Climbing Club; NGB: national governing body; MI: Mountaineering Ireland; NCO: national children's officer; CCO: club children's officer; DLP: designated liaison person

Potential Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Responsibility Club/Region/National	Further action require
<u>Club and Coaching Practices</u>				
Lack of coaching qualification.	Vetting policy and procedure. Safeguarding training.	M	NGB/Club & contracted instructors	Ongoing review
Supervision issues.	Supervision policy. Safeguarding training.	M	NGB/Club & contracted instructors/ group leaders	Ongoing review
Unauthorised photography & recording activities.	Photography & Use of Images policy/ Signed consent forms/Codes of conduct/Supervision policy.	M	Club & contracted instructors/Group leaders	Regularly check consent forms and ensure non-consent is respected
Behavioural Issues.	Code of Conduct/ Supervision policy/Safeguarding Training/ Disability awareness training.	M	Club & contracted instructors/ Group	Ongoing review especially in the context of additional

Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	Supervision policy.	M	leaders/Club Children's Officer	needs children. Seek to access or develop a diversity policy to ensure gender balance.
No guidance for travelling & away trips	Travel & Away trip policy / Safeguarding Training.	M	NGB/Climbing venue management/Club	Ongoing review and consideration of needs when deciding on ratios.
Lack of adherence with misc. procedures in Safeguarding policy (i.e: mobile, photography, transport)	Safeguarding Policy/ Refresher safeguarding training/Refresher in-house training for volunteer coaches	M	NGB/ Club & contracted instructors/CCO	Ongoing review
<u>Complaints & Discipline</u>				
Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy.	Club complaints and notice of appeal forms.	M	NGB/Club	Immediate action: inquire into MI's Complaints and disciplinary policy and request copy.
Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent	Club complaints and notice of appeal forms.	M	Club/CCO	CCO to be identified to all parties/participants/parents though initial communication & information sheet.

Complaints not being dealt with seriously	Club complaints and notice of appeal forms/Poor practice and whistle blowing policy.	M	NGB/Club/ CCO	Ensure there is a clear pathway and escalation process for raising a complaint from club to NGB where necessary.
<u>Reporting Procedures</u> Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures No DLP appointed. Concerns of abuse or harm not reported.	Child Safeguarding framework/ Recognising and reporting child abuse policy and written procedure/Safeguarding training.	M	NGB/ CCO/DLP	Ongoing review of club's recognising and reporting child abuse procedure and regular in-house training on same. Refresh child safeguarding training every 3 years for all volunteers.
	Child Safeguarding framework/ Recognising and reporting child abuse policy and written procedure/Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1-2-3	M	NGB/Club	Ensure a DLP and deputy DLP are designated at all times.
	Safeguarding training/ Recognising and reporting child abuse policy & procedure/Poor practice and whistle blowing policy.	H	Club/ contracted instructors/group leaders	Clearly communicate names of CCO, DLP and deputy DLP to all involved (instructors, volunteers participants). Maintain regular conversations with all regarding the procedure for reporting concerns.

Not clear who the child should talk to or report to.	Child code of Conduct/ Briefing on first session by CCO/ youth coach volunteer/Poor practice and whistle blowing policy.	H	CCO/DLP/volunteer youth coach/group leaders & teachers	<p>(The written club procedure is printed, laminated and taped inside the club locker in AWC).</p> <p>Clearly make known the name and contact number for the CCO/DLP to all young participants. Name to feature on code of conduct forms and child safeguarding statement.</p>
<p><u>Use of Facilities</u></p> <p>Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.....</p> <p>Unauthorised exit from children's areas.</p>	<p>Child safeguarding policy/Supervision policy / Child code of conduct</p> <p>Supervision policy / Code of conduct</p>	<p>H</p> <p>M</p>	<p>Contracted instructors/ venue staff/volunteer youth coaches</p> <p>All persons in charge: club volunteer coaches/Contracted instructors/ Group leaders</p>	<p>Clarify boundaries and rules before the first session and revisit those often throughout program.</p> <p>Clarify boundaries and rules before session starts. Mitigate risks when working with children with additional needs, in close partnership with leaders and venue staff.</p>

Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas.	Filming & photography policy/ Supervision policy/ Child and adult code of Conduct.	H	All persons in charge: club volunteer coaches/Contracted instructors/ Group leaders	Clarify boundaries, rules and responsibilities before session starts.
Missing or found child on site.	Supervision policy/Child Safeguarding policy / Child code of conduct	M	All persons in charge: club volunteer coaches/Contracted instructors/ Group leaders.	Clarify boundaries, rules and responsibilities before session starts.
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc.	Safeguarding training/ policy.	M	All persons in charge: club volunteer coaches/Contracted instructors/ Group leaders.	Clarify boundaries, rules and responsibilities before session starts.
<u>Recruitment</u>				
Recruitment of inappropriate people.	Safer recruitment policy/Garda vetting policy and procedures.	M	NGB/Club/ Climbing venues	Ongoing review.
Lack of clarity on roles.	Safer recruitment policy/ GCCI guidance documents/ Reporting child safeguarding concerns procedure/ Volunteers in-house training.	M	NGB/Club/Climbing venues	Clear communication with NGB, Club, contracted instructors, volunteers, group leaders, and venue.

Unqualified or untrained people in role.	Safer recruitment policy/Garda vetting.	M	NGB/Club/Climbing venues	Ongoing review.
<p><u>Communications</u></p> <p>Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors.</p> <p>No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors.</p> <p>Inappropriate use of social media & communications by under 18’s</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding policy/Safeguarding training/ Child and adult code of conduct.</p> <p>Child Safeguarding Statement available on CCC website/ Child code of conduct</p> <p>Safeguarding training & policy/ Code of conduct/Filming and photography policy/Child & young person social media consent form</p>	<p>M</p> <p>M</p> <p>H</p>	<p>NGB/CCO/volunteer youth coaches/instructors and venue staff</p> <p>NGB/Club/DLP</p> <p>Club/contracted instructors/club volunteers/DLP</p>	<p>Communicate Child Safeguarding statement to all relevant persons.</p> <p>Communicate Child Safeguarding statement to all relevant persons. Include codes of conduct in all communications prior to enrolment/first session and collect forms signed by child and parent.</p> <p>Ongoing review.</p>

<p><u>General Risk of Harm</u></p> <p>Harm not being recognised.</p> <p>Harm caused by: Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child. Member to Child. Visitor to Child.</p> <p>Issues of Bullying.</p>	<p>Safeguarding training & policy.</p> <p>Safeguarding training & policy/ Supervision policy/ Implementation of risk assessment</p> <p>Anti-Bullying policy/ Child and adult code of conduct/ Safeguarding training & policy</p>	<p>M</p> <p>M</p> <p>M</p>	<p>NGB/Club volunteers/contracted instructors/CCO/DLP</p> <p>NGB/Club volunteers/contracted instructors/DLP</p> <p>Club volunteers/contracted instructors/CCO/ Group leaders</p>	<p>NCO/CCO/DLP communications and keeping safeguarding on the agenda of every meeting (in-house training). Safeguarding training refresher every 3 years.</p> <p>Safeguarding training and refresher training Ongoing review</p> <p>Prevention, communication, and reporting procedures</p>
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This Safeguarding Risk Assessment has been discussed and completed by the committee of Cork Climbing Club on 10/03/2025 and 14/04/2025.

Signed:  Signed: _____

CCC Chair person

Name: Janette McDonald

Date: 01st May 2025

Signed:  Signed: _____

CCC Club Children's Officer

Name: Caro Vasseur

Date: 10th April 2025

The child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on: 10th April 2027.

Section 4 – Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015 The Children First: National Guidance, Sport Ireland's Safeguarding Guidance for Children & Young People in Sport and Irish Sailing's Safeguarding Policy Document.

In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

Cork Climbing Club has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities.
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.

The Mandated Person for Mountaineering Ireland, our National Governing Body is Pamela Bastable and may be contacted at safeguarding@mountaineering.ie or by phone at 087-0007494.

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Cork Climbing 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 activities.

Please note the following:

- That all staff, instructors, and volunteers have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, and members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed on our website.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every two years. For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement and risk assessment, please contact the Club's Children's Officer Caro Vasseur at getclimbingcork@gmail.com.