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Child Safeguarding Statement

NGB provides various sporting activities and opportunities for young people through participation in clubs, regional/provincial events and through our national teams.

Esker Celtic Football Club is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our FAI Safeguarding Policies our staff, both volunteers and employed, working with our young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop.

This Club's (**Esker Celtic Football Club**) 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 are contained in the following categories: Club and Coaching Practices; Complaints & Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications; and General Risk of Harm.

The Risk Assessment was reviewed **October 2024**.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice). 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.

Esker Celtic Football 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

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Board of Directors: Tony Fitzgerald **President**, Donal Conway **vica President**, John Delaney **Chief Executive Officer**, Michael Cody, Eddie Murray, Eamon Naughton, Paraic Treanor, Jim McConnell, John Earley, Mick Hanley, Niamh O'Donoghue. Company Registration No. 17081. Registered Office: National Sports Campus Ireland, Abbotstown, Dublin 15

- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of Harm.
- "harm" means, in relation to a child. (a) assault, ill-treatment, or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development, or welfare
- Procedures in place to manage Risk.
- Risk assessment has been completed and signed.
- Procedures in place for Safe Guarding Training.
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- All children in our club from 4 years to 18 years fall under this safeguarding statement
- All volunteers fall under this statement. (70 plus) at this time

The relevant person for the FA! is *Kirsten Parkes* and the relevant person for Esker Celtic Football Club is *Paul Cleary*.

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our 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.

This Child safeguarding Statement will be reviewed during
October 2026

Signed Paul Cleary Date 1 - Nov - 2024

On behalf: Esker Celtic Football Club

Name: (Paul Cleary) DLO

Phone no: 00 353 87 2249903

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact Paul Cleary.

Risk Assessment Document for *Esker Celtic Football Club, Dublin, FAI*

This risk assessment considers the potential for harm to come to children whilst they are in *Esker Celtic Football Club, Dublin, FAI's* care. This risk assessment precedes the Child Safeguarding Statement (Section 11 (1b) Children First Act 2015) which is developed following this risk assessment process. In accordance with the requirements of Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015 the risk is of abuse and not general health and safety risk (covered under a separate H&S policy and risk assessment).

Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015 states that where a person proposes to operate as a provider of a relevant service, he or she shall, within 3 months from the date on which he or she commences as such a provider —

(a) Undertake an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of the service (in this section referred to as a “risk”).

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club/Region/National	Further action required...
CLUB & COACHING PRACTICES				
Lack of coaching qualification	L	- Coach education policy - Recruitment policy	Club	<i>Live register updated on annual basis or as new recruits join the club</i>
Supervision issues	M	- Supervision policy - Coach education policy	Club	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Unauthorised photography & recording activities	M	Photography and Use of Images policy	Club	<i>Reference made to FAI safe media policy</i>
Behavioural Issues	M	- Code of Conduct - Safeguarding Level 1 (min) - Complaints & Disciplinary policy	Club	<i>SG: a minimum requirement Code of conduct declaration signed Complaints policy in place</i>

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club/Region/National	Further action required ...
Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	M	- Coach education policy - Supervision policy	Club	Through our recruitment policy we endeavour to balance gender throughout the club.
No guidance for travelling and away trips	M	- Travel/Away trip policy - Child Safeguarding Training	Club	Child Adult ratio Parent and child must travel together Consent sought in writing
Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy (i.e. mobile, photography, transport)	L	- Safeguarding policy - Complaints & disciplinary policy	Club	Child welfare policy place
COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINE				
Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy	M	- Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy - Communications procedure	Club	Members made aware of complaint process Complaints policy and procedures in place.
Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent Reason: Covered above	M	- Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy - Communications procedure	Club	Ongoing review of policies in place
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	L	Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy	Club	Ongoing review to be the best Policies and FAI guidelines in place

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club/Region/National	Further action required...
REPORTING PROCEDURES				
Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures	M	- Reporting procedures/policy - Coach education policy - Code of Conduct /Behaviour	NGB MP DLP Club	Make policies and procedures available Include in Safeguarding Training (L1) Include in Coach Education Training
No Mandated Person appointed	L	Reporting procedures/policy	Club	Publicise identity of Mandated Person Train Mandated Person in their role
No DLP Appointed	L	Reporting procedures/policy	NGB Club	Train all DLPs Publicise identity of DLPs
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	M	- Reporting procedures/policy - Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1	MP DLP	Include in Safeguarding Training (L1) Publicise names of CCOs, DLPs, MP(s) Publicise internal and external reporting procedures
Not clear who YP should talk to or report to	L	Post the names of CCOs, DLPs and MP	CCO DLP	Communicate in Club Include in Safeguarding Training (L1)
FACILITIES				
Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.	M	- Supervision policy - Coach education	NGB Club	Clarify responsibilities before session starts Showers not available to children in or visiting our club
Unauthorised exit from children's areas	M	- Supervision policy - Coach education	Club	Clarify responsibilities before session starts

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club/Region/National	Further action required ...
Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas	L	Photography policy and use of devices in private zones	Club	Enforce policy in private changing and wet areas Signage
Missing or found child on site	L	Missing or found child policy	Club	Refer to policy and inform Gardai
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc.	L	Safeguarding policy	Club	Plan with facilities management to create a suitable child centred environment in shared facilities No adult team use facility with children
RECRUITMENT				
Recruitment of inappropriate people	M	Recruitment policy	NGB Club CCO Appropriate personnel	Interview process Reference follow up Recruitment policy implemented
Lack of clarity on roles	L	Recruitment policy	Club	Check job description Put supervision in place
Unqualified or untrained people in role	M	Recruitment policy	Club	Check qualification Ongoing review
COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA				
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors	M	- Child Safeguarding Statement - Training policy	National Club DLP CCO	Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club/Region/National	Further action required ...
No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors	L	- Child Safeguarding Statement – display - Code of Behaviour - distribute	Club Executive DLP Children's Officer	Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate
Unauthorised photography & recording of activities	M	Photography and Use of Images policy	Club	Ongoing review
Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18's	M	- Communications policy - Code of conduct	Club	Ongoing review
Inappropriate use of social media and communications with under 18's	M	- Communications policy - Code of conduct.	Club	Ongoing review
GENERAL RISK OF HARM				
Harm not being recognised	M	- Safeguarding policy - Child Safeguarding Training	Club	Ongoing review
Harm caused by - child to child - coach to child - volunteer to child - member to child - visitor to child	M	- Safeguarding policy - Child Safeguarding Training	Club	Ongoing review
General behavioural issues	L	Code of Conduct	Club	Take disciplinary action where necessary Sign code of conduct



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This Risk Assessment document has been discussed, updated and completed by *Exeter Celtic Football Club, Dublin, FAI as provider on 26/March/2025*

Signed: *Paul Cleary*

Name: *Paul Cleary*

Role: *DLO*

Date: *28-3-2025*

Signed: *Paul Cleary*

Name: *Paul Cleary*

Role: Club Children's Officer

Date: *28-03-2025*