

Guidance on developing a Child Safeguarding Statement (CSS)

Section 1 – club information.

In this section you will need to provide details on your NGB / club. These details include the following:

- Name club).
- Sport (sport or sports provided by the NGB / club).
- Location (national/local level).
- Size (number of staff/members/clubs).
- Activities (types of activities undertaken by the NGB/club).

By gathering the above information on your NGB / club it will ensure that key details are captured which will help to complete the CSS i.e. one overarching Child Safeguarding Statement or a number of Child Safeguarding Statement's for different affiliates.

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm.

In this section the NGB / club should state their commitment to safeguarding children and the principles they operate by. The following is a list of overarching principles that should be taken into account by your NGB / club:

- Importance of childhood.
- Needs of the child.
- Integrity in relationships.
- Fair Play.
- Quality atmosphere & ethos.
- Competition.
- Equality.

Each of the above principles is a key part of safeguarding children and should be closely adhered to by your NGB / club.

Section 3 - Risk Assessment

This section indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents require to alleviate these risks. The areas of risk listed below are by no means exhaustive but they give an indication of what should be taken into account by your NGB / club:

- Club and Coaching Practices.
- Complaints & Discipline.
- Reporting Procedures.
- Use of Facilities.
- Recruitment.
- Communications.
- General Risk of Harm.

Each risk that has been identified should have a procedure in place to manage that risk. This must be specific to your NGB / club.

Section 4 – Procedures

This section is where the NGB / club states the procedures they have in place to support their intention to safeguard children while they are participating in activities with the NGB / club.

The name and location of the NGB/ Club should be provided along with details on each procedure that is in place.

Please note that all procedures that are listed must be made available on request.

The name and contact details of the mandated person/relevant person for NGB/club (insert name and contact details), should also be stated in this section.

Section 5 – Implementation

This section outlines the implementation phase of the CSS. It should contain details on the how the NGB / club intends to implement the CSS this will include a set of procedures to keep children safe from harm while availing of the NGB / club’s activities.

It should be stated in this section that;

- The CSS has been furnished to staff
- Made available to parents/guardians, the Agency and members of the public on request &
- Displayed in a prominent place where services are provided.’

This section should also state the review timeframe for the CSS and should be signed and dated by the relevant person.

In the event of any queries on the CSS, contact details for the relevant person should also be provided.

Further information on developing a Child Safeguarding Statement can be found via the following link: <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/organisations/what-is-a-child-safeguarding-statement/how-do-i-develop-a-child-safeguarding-statement>

- CSS = Child Safeguarding Statement.
- NGB = National Governing Body