

IRISH AMATEUR WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT

2026 - 2028 REVIEW PERIOD

National Governing Body Risk Assessment – Wrestling Activities

1. Purpose and scope

This Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment identifies potential risks of harm to children and young people participating in activities organised, sanctioned, supervised or otherwise undertaken under the auspices of the Irish Amateur Wrestling Association (I.A.W.A.). It is intended to inform the I.A.W.A. Child Safeguarding Statement and the policies, procedures, training and controls used by I.A.W.A. and affiliated clubs. It applies to training, open mats, coaching courses, competitions, camps, demonstrations, selection activities, travel and overnight stays, and other I.A.W.A. or affiliated-club activities involving children.

This is a child safeguarding risk assessment. It concerns potential harm or abuse to children and is not a substitute for a general health and safety risk assessment covering physical injury, premises, equipment, fire, first aid or other general safety matters.

2. Legislative and safeguarding basis

The Children First Act 2015 requires providers of relevant services to children to undertake an assessment of potential harm, prepare a Child Safeguarding Statement and appoint a relevant person. The Act also requires the Child Safeguarding Statement to identify procedures for managing identified risks, recruitment, training and reporting.

Sport Ireland's safeguarding guidance identifies the risk assessment as the process used to examine the organisation from a safeguarding perspective and to develop and review policies and procedures to minimise identified risks.

I.A.W.A. should read this document together with its current Child Safeguarding Statement, safeguarding policies, codes of conduct, recruitment/vetting arrangements, complaints and disciplinary procedures, and other relevant policies.

3. How likelihood is assessed

- LOW (L): The risk is possible but existing controls substantially reduce the likelihood of occurrence.
- MEDIUM (M): The risk is credible and requires active controls, monitoring and periodic review.
- HIGH (H): The risk could reasonably result in serious harm if not effectively controlled and requires priority action and close oversight.

4. I.A.W.A. responsibilities

- I.A.W.A. Board / National Governing Body: oversight, policy, standards, education, monitoring and escalation.
- Club / Club Committee: implementation of I.A.W.A. requirements within the club and confirmation that appropriate local controls are operating.
- Club Children's Officer (CCO): local safeguarding point of contact and support for safeguarding implementation.
- Designated Liaison Person (DLP): receives and manages reports/concerns in accordance with applicable procedures and statutory guidance.
- Relevant Person / Mandated Persons: responsibilities are carried out in accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and applicable guidance.
- Coaches, officials, volunteers and other adults: comply with safeguarding policies, maintain appropriate boundaries and report concerns through the prescribed process.

CLUB & COACHING PRACTICES

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
Inappropriate or unqualified adults coaching or supervising children	H	I.A.W.A. Coach Education Policy; Vetting Policy; Code of Conduct	I.A.W.A. / Club / CCO	Verify qualifications, safeguarding training and vetting before appointment. Maintain records and review regularly.
Adult-child boundaries not clearly understood	M	Code of Conduct; Coach/Volunteer Code; Safeguarding Training	I.A.W.A. / Club / Coach	Set clear professional boundaries. Avoid unnecessary one-to-one situations and inappropriate communications or contact.
Inappropriate physical contact or coaching technique	M	Code of Conduct; Coaching Practice Guidance; Complaints/Disciplinary Procedure	I.A.W.A. / Club / Coach	Physical contact must be necessary, appropriate to coaching and explained where practicable. Concerns must be reported and recorded.
Bullying, intimidation, humiliation or degrading treatment during training	M	Code of Conduct; Anti-Bullying Policy; Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure	Club / Coach / CCO	Promote respectful coaching. Intervene promptly. Record and investigate concerns under the relevant procedure.
Excessive pressure to train, compete or remain in a session	M	Code of Conduct; Safeguarding Policy; Complaints Procedure	Club / Coach / CCO	Children should be treated respectfully and concerns about pressure or treatment should have a clear reporting route.
Lack of appropriate supervision during children's sessions	M	Supervision Policy; Coach Education Policy; Safeguarding Policy	Club / Coach / CCO	Confirm supervision arrangements before every session, including cover for breaks and late collection.
Lack of suitable gender balance or appropriate adult supervision	M	Supervision Policy; Recruitment Policy; Coach Education Policy	Club / I.A.W.A. / Club	Plan staffing appropriately for the age, sex and circumstances of participants; avoid avoidable one-adult/one-child situations.
Children attending mixed-age or mixed-group activities without appropriate safeguards	M	Supervision Policy; Safeguarding Policy; Code of Conduct	Club / Coach	Assess group composition, supervision and facilities before activity begins.
Failure to recognise a child safeguarding concern	H	Safeguarding Policy; Child Safeguarding Training; Reporting Procedure	I.A.W.A. / Club / CCO / DLP	Mandatory safeguarding education and clear reporting routes; refresh training and publicise safeguarding contacts.

TRAINING, CONTACT & PARTICIPATION

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
Inappropriate use of demonstrations or contact during wrestling instruction	M	Coaching Practice Guidance; Code of Conduct; Safeguarding Policy	Coach / Club	Use age-appropriate instruction, explain demonstrations and maintain professional boundaries.
Child left alone with an adult outside normal coaching circumstances	M	Supervision Policy; Code of Conduct; Safeguarding Policy	Club / Coach	Use two-adult/appropriate supervision arrangements where practicable and document exceptional circumstances.
Private conversations with children occurring without appropriate safeguards	M	Communications Policy; Code of Conduct; Safeguarding Policy	Coach / CCO	Where possible use visible/public settings and appropriate channels; parents/guardians informed where policy requires.
Unapproved one-to-one digital contact with under-18s	M	Communications Policy; Social Media Policy; Code of Conduct	I.A.W.A. / Club / Coach	Use approved group/parent-visible channels and avoid personal messaging except where policy permits and safeguards apply.
Failure to provide children and parents with information on how to raise concerns	M	Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure; Communications Procedure	Club / CCO	Display and communicate the names/contact routes for CCO, DLP and relevant safeguarding contacts.

FACILITIES, CHANGING AREAS & PRIVACY

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
Unauthorised access to children's training areas, changing rooms, showers or toilets	H	Supervision Policy; Safeguarding Policy; Facility/Club Procedures	Club / CCO	Control access; clarify who supervises each area before sessions and competitions begin.
Adults entering children's changing or private areas without appropriate reason	H	Safeguarding Policy; Code of Conduct; Photography Policy	Club / Event Lead / CCO	Restrict access to authorised personnel and ensure clear procedures for assistance, emergencies and supervision.
Children and adults sharing changing/shower facilities without appropriate safeguards	M	Safeguarding Policy; Facility Procedures; Supervision Policy	Club / Venue / CCO	Plan facilities in advance and create a child-centred environment. Follow venue and I.A.W.A. safeguarding requirements.
Photography, filming or recording in changing rooms, toilets or other private areas	H	Photography & Use of Images Policy; Safeguarding Policy	Club / Event Lead	Prohibit recording in private areas. Communicate and enforce the rule.
Unauthorised photography, filming or publication of children's images	M	Photography & Use of Images Policy; Communications Policy	Club / Event Lead / CCO	Use approved photography arrangements, consent/notification procedures and appropriate storage/publication controls.
Missing or found child at a club, competition or event	M	Missing Child Procedure; Safeguarding Policy; Event Procedures	Club / Event Lead / CCO	Use a documented response, maintain supervision and contact parents/guardians and An Garda Síochána where required.

RECRUITMENT, VETTING & PERSONNEL

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
Recruitment of a person unsuitable to work with children	H	Recruitment Policy; Vetting Policy; Code of Conduct	I.A.W.A. / Club / CCO	Complete required recruitment, reference, vetting and safeguarding checks before the person undertakes relevant duties.
Vetting records not current or responsibilities unclear	H	Vetting Policy; Recruitment Policy	Club / Vetting Validator / CCO	Maintain a central club record and clear responsibility for checking renewal/eligibility.
Unqualified or untrained people undertaking coaching/safeguarding roles	M	Coach Education Policy; Recruitment Policy; Safeguarding Training	I.A.W.A. / Club	Verify qualifications and required safeguarding training before role allocation.
Lack of clarity over adult roles and responsibilities	M	Recruitment Policy; Role Descriptions; Safeguarding Policy	Club / I.A.W.A.	Use written role descriptions and identify CCO, DLP, relevant persons and supervision responsibilities.
Failure to act on safeguarding concerns involving a coach, official or volunteer	H	Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure; Reporting Procedure; Safeguarding Policy	I.A.W.A. / Club / DLP	Escalate concerns promptly and follow reporting, investigation and disciplinary procedures without informal resolution where inappropriate.

COMPLAINTS, REPORTING & DISCIPLINE

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
Lack of awareness of the Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure	M	Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure; Communications Procedure	I.A.W.A. / Club	Make procedures available; explain them during induction and safeguarding training.
Child or parent unable to raise a concern safely	M	Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure; Communications Procedure	Club / CCO / DLP	Provide clear, accessible routes and alternative contacts if the concern relates to the usual contact person.
Complaints not taken seriously or handled informally when escalation is required	H	Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure; Reporting Procedure	I.A.W.A. / Club / DLP	Record concerns, assess safeguarding implications and escalate under the applicable procedure.
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	H	Reporting Procedure; Child Safeguarding Training; Children First procedures	DLP / Mandated Persons / Relevant Person	Provide training and clear internal/external reporting routes. Do not delay reporting while conducting an informal investigation.
Uncertainty about who a young person should speak to	M	Safeguarding Statement; Communications Procedure	CCO / DLP / Club	Publicise safeguarding contacts at the club, events and online.
Failure to maintain appropriate safeguarding records	M	Safeguarding Policy; Record Keeping Procedure	I.A.W.A. / Club / DLP	Keep confidential records securely and restrict access to authorised personnel.

TRAVEL, AWAY EVENTS & OVERNIGHT STAYS

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
Inadequate safeguarding arrangements during travel to competitions/camps	M	Travel/Away Trip Policy; Safeguarding Policy; Code of Conduct	I.A.W.A. / Club / Team Lead	Plan supervision, transport, emergency contacts, accommodation and adult responsibilities before departure.
Inappropriate adult/child accommodation arrangements	H	Travel/Away Trip Policy; Safeguarding Policy	I.A.W.A. / Club / Team Lead	Use appropriate rooming arrangements and clear rules for adult access and supervision.
Children left unsupervised during travel or at venues	M	Travel/Away Trip Policy; Supervision Policy	Team Lead / Coach / CCO	Maintain attendance and supervision records and establish agreed check-in procedures.
Inappropriate communication with children during trips	M	Communications Policy; Code of Conduct	Team Lead / Coach	Use approved communication channels and maintain professional boundaries.
Child separated from team or missing during an away event	M	Travel/Away Trip Policy; Missing Child Procedure	Team Lead / Event Lead	Maintain attendance lists, emergency contacts and an agreed escalation procedure.
Safeguarding concerns arising during an international trip	M	Travel/Away Trip Policy; Reporting Procedure; Safeguarding Policy	I.A.W.A. Team Lead / DLP	Ensure travelling adults know reporting procedures and relevant local emergency contacts.

COMPETITIONS, CAMPS & EVENTS

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
Insufficient safeguarding arrangements at I.A.W.A. competitions/open mats	M	Event Safeguarding Procedure; Supervision Policy; Safeguarding Policy	I.A.W.A. Event Lead / Club / CCO	Identify safeguarding lead, supervision arrangements, restricted areas and reporting route before event.
Unauthorised adults gaining access to children's areas	M	Event Access Procedure; Safeguarding Policy	Event Lead / Venue	Use accreditation/access controls and monitor restricted areas.
Unclear responsibility where several clubs attend an event	M	Event Safeguarding Procedure; Club/I.A.W.A. Roles	I.A.W.A. Event Lead / Club CCOs	Confirm which adults have responsibility for each participant and how concerns are escalated.
Children attending events without appropriate emergency/parental information	M	Event Registration Procedure; Travel/Away Trip Policy	Club / Event Lead	Maintain accurate participant, parent/guardian and emergency contact information in accordance with data protection requirements.
Inappropriate media interviews, publicity or social media involving children	M	Photography & Use of Images Policy; Communications/Social Media Policy	I.A.W.A. / Club / Event Lead	Use approved procedures for images, interviews and publication; avoid identifying information where inappropriate.

COMMUNICATIONS, SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE SAFETY

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
No communication of the Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour	M	Child Safeguarding Statement; Code of Conduct; Communications Procedure	I.A.W.A. / Club	Display and distribute the statement/code and make them available to parents/guardians and members.
Inappropriate use of social media or communications with under-18s	H	Communications Policy; Social Media/Online Safety Policy; Code of Conduct	I.A.W.A. / Club / Coach	Use approved channels, professional boundaries and documented procedures.
Online bullying, harassment or inappropriate content involving children	M	Online Safety Policy; Anti-Bullying Policy; Complaints Procedure	Club / CCO / DLP	Provide reporting routes, investigate concerns and take action under applicable procedures.
Personal data or safeguarding information shared inappropriately online	M	Data Protection/Privacy Policy; Communications Policy; Safeguarding Policy	I.A.W.A. / Club	Use secure approved systems and limit access to those with a legitimate safeguarding role.
Children unaware of online safety expectations	M	Online Safety Policy; Safeguarding Training; Code of Conduct	Club / CCO	Communicate age-appropriate online safety expectations to children, parents and adults.

GENERAL SAFEGUARDING RISKS

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
Harm not being recognised	H	Safeguarding Policy; Child Safeguarding Training	I.A.W.A. / Club / CCO	Regular training, refresher education and visible reporting information.
Harm caused by child to child	M	Safeguarding Policy; Anti-Bullying Policy; Code of Conduct	Club / CCO / DLP	Supervision, behaviour standards, prompt intervention and reporting.
Harm caused by coach to child	H	Safeguarding Policy; Code of Conduct; Recruitment/Vetting; Reporting Procedure	I.A.W.A. / Club / DLP	Recruitment controls, training, supervision, professional boundaries and immediate escalation of concerns.
Harm caused by volunteer to child	H	Safeguarding Policy; Recruitment/Vetting; Code of Conduct	I.A.W.A. / Club / CCO	Apply the same safeguarding standards to volunteers as other adults in relevant roles.
Harm caused by member or visitor to child	M	Safeguarding Policy; Event Access Procedure	Club / Event Lead	Control access, supervise activities and act on concerns.
Bullying, discrimination, harassment or exclusion affecting a child	M	Code of Conduct; Anti-Bullying Policy; Equality/Inclusion Policy; Complaints Procedure	I.A.W.A. / Club / CCO	Promote respectful participation, provide reporting routes and respond promptly to concerns.
Safeguarding arrangements not reviewed after a material change	M	Safeguarding Policy; Risk Assessment Review Procedure	I.A.W.A. Board / Club Committee	Review after material changes and at least within the required review cycle.

5. I.A.W.A. policies and procedures supporting this assessment

- I.A.W.A. Child Safeguarding Statement
- I.A.W.A. Child Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy
- I.A.W.A. Code of Conduct / Code of Behaviour
- I.A.W.A. Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure
- I.A.W.A. Reporting / Child Protection Procedures
- I.A.W.A. Recruitment and Vetting Policy / Procedures
- I.A.W.A. Coach Education and Coaching Practice requirements
- I.A.W.A. Supervision requirements
- I.A.W.A. Photography and Use of Images Policy
- I.A.W.A. Communications / Social Media / Online Safety Policy
- I.A.W.A. Travel / Away Trip Policy
- I.A.W.A. Anti-Bullying Policy
- I.A.W.A. Equality, Inclusion and Participation policies where applicable
- Relevant event-specific safeguarding procedures and venue rules

6. Monitoring and review

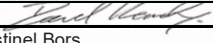
This risk assessment should be reviewed as part of I.A.W.A.'s safeguarding governance and whenever there is a material change to the activities, facilities, personnel, policies, legislation or safeguarding arrangements to which it relates.

The Child Safeguarding Statement is subject to the review requirements of the Children First Act 2015. The Act provides for review at intervals of not more than 24 months and earlier review following a material change.

Clubs affiliated to I.A.W.A. should maintain their own club-level risk assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement where they are providers of relevant services, using the I.A.W.A./NGB requirements as applicable.

7. Approval and sign-off

Organisation	Irish Amateur Wrestling Association (I.A.W.A.)
Document	Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment
Version	Version 2 - 2026
Date completed	07 / 09 / 2026
Next scheduled review	06 / 09 / 2028
Approved by	I.A.W.A. Board / Management Committee

Name / role	Signature / date
I.A.W.A. President / authorised officer	Daniel Kennedy  07/09/2026
I.A.W.A. Child Safeguarding Lead / Relevant Person	<u>Viorel Cristinel Bors</u> iawagardavetting@gmail.com
Club / Committee representative (where applicable)	

Important note

This document is a safeguarding risk assessment and should be read together with the current I.A.W.A. Child Safeguarding Statement and applicable policies and procedures. It should not be treated as a general health and safety risk assessment.

VERSION 2 - WRESTLING-SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDING CONTROLS

These additional controls strengthen the I.A.W.A. assessment by addressing safeguarding issues particularly relevant to wrestling and by incorporating useful practices identified in comparable combat-sport and governing-body safeguarding frameworks. They supplement the preceding risk tables.

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT, WEIGH-INS & WEIGHT-CATEGORY PRESSURE

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
Child pressured or forced to lose, gain or maintain weight for competition	H	Safeguarding Policy; Coach Code of Conduct; Competition Regulations; Athlete Welfare / Weight Management Guidance	I.A.W.A. / Club / Coach / Parent-Guardian	Coaches must not force or coerce a child to cut weight. Treat coercive or harmful weight-making practices as a safeguarding concern and report through the safeguarding pathway.
Restriction of food or fluids, deliberate dehydration, excessive sweating or other rapid weight-loss practices involving a child	H	Weight Management Guidance; Safeguarding Policy; Coach Education; Anti-Doping Education	I.A.W.A. / Club / Coach / CCO / DLP	Prohibit unsafe rapid weight loss and intentional dehydration for children. Escalate welfare concerns. Refer nutrition or weight-management needs to an appropriately qualified health or sports-nutrition professional.
Child becomes faint, distressed, unwell or shows concerning eating/weight behaviours linked to wrestling	H	Safeguarding Policy; Emergency Procedures; Weight Management Guidance	Coach / Club / Event Lead / Parent-Guardian	Stop participation where welfare is in doubt, respond to immediate health needs, inform parent/guardian and record/escalate safeguarding concerns as appropriate.
Pressure from parent, coach, peer or athlete environment to compete in a lower weight category	M	Code of Conduct; Safeguarding Policy; Weight Management Guidance	I.A.W.A. / Club / Coach / CCO	Promote age-appropriate participation and welfare-first decision-making. Provide a confidential route for athletes to raise concerns.
Weigh-in arrangements compromise a child's privacy, dignity or safeguarding	M	Competition Regulations; Event Safeguarding Procedure; Changing/Privacy Guidance	I.A.W.A. Event Lead / Officials / Event Safeguarding Officer	Use age-appropriate, dignified weigh-in arrangements; restrict access to authorised personnel; protect privacy and prohibit unauthorised recording.

PHYSICAL CONTACT, DEMONSTRATION & WRESTLING PRACTICE

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
Legitimate wrestling contact is confused with, or used to disguise, inappropriate touching	H	Physical Contact Guidance; Safeguarding Policy; Coach Code of Conduct	I.A.W.A. / Club / Coach / CCO	Wrestling is a contact sport, but contact must be necessary for legitimate instruction/participation, appropriate to age and development, and conducted openly and professionally.
Coach uses unnecessary or excessive physical contact when correcting technique	M	Physical Contact Guidance; Coach Education; Code of Conduct	Coach / Club	Use verbal/visual instruction where suitable. Explain necessary contact and, where appropriate, seek the young person's permission. Adults should not do for a child what the child can reasonably do for themselves.
Horseplay, rough play, punishment drills or physical activity used to humiliate/control a child	H	Coach Code of Conduct; Safeguarding Policy; Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure	Coach / Club / CCO / DLP	Prohibit degrading, punitive or inappropriate physical practices. Record and escalate concerns.
Unsafe or inappropriate matching of children by age, weight, size, experience or ability	H	Competition/Training Rules; Coach Education; Safeguarding Policy	Coach / Club / Event Officials	Match participants appropriately for training and competition. Welfare considerations take priority over convenience or competitive outcome.
Inappropriate endurance or conditioning creates extreme distress or is used as punishment	M	Coach Education; Code of Conduct; Safeguarding Policy	Coach / Club	Training must be age-appropriate, purposeful and proportionate. Do not use extreme fatigue or distress as a disciplinary method.

EVENT SAFEGUARDING & COMPETITION CONTROLS

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
No clearly identified safeguarding contact at an I.A.W.A. competition, camp or major event	H	Event Safeguarding Procedure; Safeguarding Policy	I.A.W.A. / Event Lead	For major I.A.W.A. events designate an Event Safeguarding Officer/Lead, make the person identifiable, and communicate how participants, parents, coaches and officials can contact them.
Safeguarding concern at an event is treated only as a competition or disciplinary matter	H	Reporting Procedure; Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure; Event Safeguarding Procedure	Event Safeguarding Officer / DLP / Event Lead	Triage welfare concerns separately from sporting disputes. Immediate safeguarding concerns follow the safeguarding/reporting pathway.
Event volunteers or officials do not know how to respond to a disclosure or concern	M	Event Briefing; Reporting Procedure; Safeguarding Policy	Event Lead / Event Safeguarding Officer	Include safeguarding contacts and reporting instructions in officials/volunteer briefing before the event starts.
Restricted areas, warm-up areas, changing facilities or athlete zones are accessible to unauthorised adults	M	Event Access Procedure; Safeguarding Policy	Event Lead / Venue / Event Safeguarding Officer	Use accreditation or access controls appropriate to the event and monitor child-specific/private areas.

CLUB SAFEGUARDING GOVERNANCE, INDEPENDENCE & AUDIT

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
Club does not have a clearly identified and trained safeguarding contact	H	Club Affiliation Requirements; Safeguarding Policy; CCO Role Description	I.A.W.A. / Club Committee	Each affiliated club should maintain at least one appropriately trained Club Children's Officer/safeguarding contact and publish the contact route to members and parents.
Safeguarding officer cannot act impartially because the concern involves a close relative, head coach or senior club officer	H	Conflict of Interest Procedure; Reporting Procedure; Complaints Procedure	Club / CCO / DLP / I.A.W.A.	Declare conflicts and refer the matter to an alternative/I.A.W.A. safeguarding contact. Avoid concentrating safeguarding decision-making in a person closely connected to the subject.
Club safeguarding controls exist on paper but are not implemented	M	Safeguarding Audit Framework; Club Affiliation Requirements	I.A.W.A. / Club Committee / CCO	Introduce periodic club safeguarding self-audit/compliance review covering statement, risk assessment, vetting, training, contacts, policies and corrective actions.
Vetting or safeguarding training expires without detection	H	Vetting Policy; Safeguarding Training Policy; Club Compliance Register	I.A.W.A. / Club / Validator / CCO	Maintain expiry/renewal records and prevent adults from carrying out relevant roles where mandatory requirements are not current.

LOW-LEVEL CONCERNS, CASE TRIAGE & INDEPENDENT ESCALATION

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
Repeated low-level boundary concerns are not recorded because no single incident appears serious	M	Low-Level Concerns / Safeguarding Recording Procedure; Code of Conduct	Club / CCO / DLP / I.A.W.A.	Record patterns of concerning behaviour and review cumulatively. Do not wait for behaviour to meet a criminal or disciplinary threshold before considering welfare action.
Person reporting a concern is expected to decide whether it is safeguarding, disciplinary or a complaint	M	Central Reporting/Triage Procedure	I.A.W.A. / DLP / Safeguarding Lead	Provide a route for concerns to be submitted without the reporter having to categorise them; triage centrally to the correct process.
Safeguarding allegation concerns a board member, senior officer, DLP or other person involved in normal case management	H	Conflict of Interest; Independent Case Review / Escalation Procedure	I.A.W.A. Board / Independent Appointee	Remove conflicted persons from case decisions and use an appropriately independent person/panel or external safeguarding advice where necessary.
Internal fact-finding delays a statutory report	H	Reporting Procedure; Children First Procedures	DLP / Mandated Person / Relevant Person	Do not conduct an internal investigation in place of, or before, a required statutory report. Preserve information and follow statutory reporting procedures.

ADULTS AT RISK & INCLUSIVE SAFEGUARDING

Potential risk of harm	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
Adult participant at risk of abuse, exploitation, coercion or neglect is not recognised because procedures focus only on children	M	Adult Safeguarding / Welfare Guidance; Code of Conduct; Reporting Procedure	I.A.W.A. / Club / Welfare-Safeguarding Contact	Maintain an appropriate welfare/reporting route for adults at risk while keeping the statutory Child Safeguarding Statement and child-risk assessment distinct.
Participant with disability or additional communication needs cannot access reporting or safeguarding information	M	Inclusion Policy; Safeguarding Policy; Communications Guidance	I.A.W.A. / Club / CCO	Provide accessible communication and reasonable supports; ensure the participant can identify a trusted reporting route.
Bullying, discriminatory conduct or exclusion targets a personal characteristic	M	Code of Conduct; Anti-Bullying; Equality/Inclusion Policy; Complaints Procedure	I.A.W.A. / Club / CCO	Intervene promptly, record concerns, support the participant and use safeguarding/disciplinary procedures as appropriate.

DATA, CONFIDENTIALITY & SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood L / M / H	Required I.A.W.A. Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Responsibility NGB / Club / Role	Further action required / controls
Safeguarding information is circulated more widely than necessary	M	Data Protection Policy; Safeguarding Record-Keeping Procedure	I.A.W.A. / Club / DLP	Share safeguarding information only on a lawful, need-to-know basis; use secure storage and controlled access.
Sensitive safeguarding records are stored in personal email, messaging apps or unsecured devices	M	Data Protection / Records Policy; Communications Policy	I.A.W.A. / Club / DLP	Use approved secure systems and retention arrangements. Avoid informal storage or onward sharing.
Confidentiality is promised to a child when information may need to be reported	M	Reporting Procedure; Safeguarding Training	Coach / CCO / DLP	Explain sensitively that concerns may need to be shared with people who can help; do not promise absolute secrecy.

VERSION 2 - IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

- Adopt or formally name an I.A.W.A. Weight Management and Young Athlete Welfare guidance document, with explicit prohibition on forced weight cutting and intentional dehydration of children.
- Adopt a short I.A.W.A. Appropriate Physical Contact in Wrestling guidance document for coaches, officials, parents and athletes.
- Designate and publicise an Event Safeguarding Officer/Lead at major I.A.W.A. competitions and camps.
- Introduce a simple annual club safeguarding compliance/audit checklist covering CCO/DLP roles, Child Safeguarding Statement, risk assessment, vetting, safeguarding training and policy display.
- Create a central concern-reporting and triage route so members do not have to decide whether an issue is safeguarding, discipline, conduct or a complaint before reporting it.
- Create a conflict-of-interest/independent escalation rule for safeguarding matters involving senior officers, board members or normal case managers.
- Add adults-at-risk welfare guidance alongside, but legally distinct from, the statutory child safeguarding framework.
- Review weigh-in, changing-area and photography arrangements at I.A.W.A. competitions as part of the event safeguarding plan.

COMPARATIVE REFERENCES INFORMING VERSION 2

- Boxing Ireland safeguarding framework: club Child Safeguarding Statements and risk assessments, physical-contact guidance, safeguarding training, vetting, club safeguarding roles, travel/overnight guidance and safeguarding audit framework.
- British Wrestling WrestleSafe: Club Welfare Officer model, event safeguarding reporting, safeguarding of adults at risk and explicit safeguarding guidance on weight management/weight cutting.
- Irish Judo Association: role-specific safeguarding training and coach compliance requirements.
- Gymnastics Ireland: Child Safeguarding Statement structure and clearly identified Relevant Person.