

# Pentathlon Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement

## Section 1 – NGB

*Pentathlon Ireland* is the National Governing Body for the sport of Pentathlon in the Republic of Ireland. Pentathlon Ireland provides various sporting activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation in PI events and through to our national teams. Organised events involved the provision of pentathlon championships and training that require, in some instances, attendance at weekend events and overnight trips for members. Pentathlon Ireland is a voluntary led organisation that provides its members with opportunities to participate in the sport of Pentathlon across all age grades from Juvenile (u9 to u16), Youth (u18), Junior (u20), Senior (u35) and Master (35+).

- Name: *Pentathlon Ireland*
- Sport: **Pentathlon**
- Location (National/Local level): *National*
- Size (Number of staff/members/clubs): *54 members.*
- Activities: *Pentathlon and it's five constituent disciplines.*

## Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

*Pentathlon Ireland* is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our 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 within sport. The following set of principles should be adhered to:

- **Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in sport.
- **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 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 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.

## Section 3 - Risk Assessment

This Pentathlon Ireland 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 require to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
<p><b>Coaching Practices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of coaching qualification.</li> <li>— Supervision issues.</li> <li>— Unauthorised photography &amp; recording activities.</li> <li>— Behavioural Issues.</li> <li>— Lack of gender balance amongst coaches</li> <li>— No guidance for travelling &amp; away trips</li> <li>— Risk of harm of sexual abuse of a child by a volunteer/member of staff while away on an overnight trip</li> <li>— Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Recruitment policy.</li> <li>— Child Protection Policy/Codes of Conduct</li> <li>— Photography &amp; Use of Images policy</li> <li>— Codes of Conduct/Safeguarding 1/Child Protection Policy</li> <li>— Codes of Conduct/Child Protection Policy</li> <li>— Child Protection Policy/Safeguarding Training.</li> <li>— Child Protection Policy/Codes of Conduct</li> <li>— Child Protection Policy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Complaints &amp; Discipline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of awareness of a Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy.</li> <li>— Difficulty in raising an issue by child &amp; or parent</li> <li>— Complaints not being dealt with seriously</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Communication Plan</li> <li>— Communicate procedure</li> <li>—</li> <li>— Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure/policy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reporting Procedures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of knowledge of organisational &amp; statutory reporting procedures</li> <li>— No DLP appointed.</li> <li>— Concerns of abuse or harm not reported.</li> <li>— Not clear who YP should talk to or report to.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Communications Procedure/Child Protection Policy/Codes of Conduct</li> <li>—</li> <li>— DLP appointed</li> <li>— Child Protection Policy</li> <li>— Post the names of CCO, DLP and Mandated person.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Use of Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Unauthorised access to designated children’s play &amp; practice areas &amp; to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.....</li> <li>— Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas.</li> <li>— Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Child Protection Policy</li> <li>— Photography policy and use of devices in private zones.</li> <li>— . Child Protection Policy/Safeguarding</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recruitment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Recruitment of inappropriate people.</li> <li>— Lack of clarity on roles.</li> <li>— Unqualified or untrained people in role.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Recruitment policy.</li> <li>— Recruitment policy.</li> <li>— Recruitment policy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors.</li> <li>— No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>— Unauthorised photography &amp; recording of activities.</li> <li>— Inappropriate use of social media &amp; communications by and with under 18’s</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>—</li> <li>— Child Safeguarding Statement (display/post)</li> <li>— Photography &amp; Use of Images policy</li> <li>— Social Media Policy</li> </ul>
<p><b>General Risk of Harm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Harm not being recognised.</li> <li>— Harm caused by: Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Child Protection Policy</li> <li>—</li> <li>—</li> <li>— Child Protection Policy</li> <li>— Child Safeguarding Training.</li> </ul>

<p>Member to Child. Visitor to Child.</p> <p>— General behavioural issues.</p> <p>— Issues of Bullying.</p> <p>— Vetting of staff/volunteers.</p> <p>— Issues of Online Safety</p>	<p>— Codes of Conduct.</p> <p>— Anti-Bullying policy.</p> <p>— Recruitment policy/Vetting policy.</p> <p>— Social Media Policy</p>
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The Risk Assessment was undertaken during July and August 2019.

#### **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, 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.

**Pentathlon Ireland** 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.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person (Children’s Officer).

***Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.***

Sheena Carroll is the relevant person for Pentathlon Ireland, and is the mandated person as set out in the Children First Act 2015. Sheena can be contacted on 01-6251134, [info@pentathlon.ie](mailto:info@pentathlon.ie)

#### **Section 5 – Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Pentathlon Ireland 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 volunteers and staff have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, the Agency & members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by Pentathlon Ireland

The Pentathlon Ireland Child Safeguarding Plan including all policies and procedures is available on request or at the following webpage for download [www.pentathlon.ie](http://www.pentathlon.ie)

You can also email [info@pentathlon.ie](mailto:info@pentathlon.ie) if you would like any information sent to you.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 22/07/2021



Signed:

Date: **22/07/2019**

*(On behalf of Pentathlon Ireland)*

Name: **Paddy Boyd**

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**Pentathlon Ireland National Children's Officer**

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**Pentathlon Ireland National Designated Liaison Officer, Mandated Person and Relevant Administrator**

Sheena Carroll

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