

Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy

Introduction

Ballinasloe Athletics Club is committed to safeguarding children and ensuring their safety and well-being. We recognise our responsibility to protect children from harm and to provide a safe environment for them to develop their skills and enjoy athletics.

Policy Statement

- The welfare of children is paramount.
 - All children, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, ability, or socioeconomic background, have the right to participate in a safe and supportive environment.
 - All suspicions and allegations of harm will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
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Key Measures

1. **Recruitment and Vetting:**
All volunteers, coaches, and staff working with children will undergo Garda vetting and appropriate training in child protection.
 2. **Code of Conduct:**
All club members, including children, coaches, and parents, are expected to adhere to the club's Code of Conduct.
 3. **Reporting Procedures:**
 - Any concerns about a child's welfare should be reported immediately to the **Child Protection Officer (CCO)** or the **Designated Liaison Person (DLP)**.
 - Confidentiality will be maintained in line with legal requirements.
 4. **Training and Awareness:**
 - All club personnel will receive training on child safeguarding and protection policies.
 - Parents and guardians will be informed of the club's safeguarding policies.
 5. **Supervision and Safety:**
 - Children will be supervised at all times during club activities.
 - A parent roster system will be implemented to assist coaches during training sessions.
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Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or as necessary to reflect changes in legislation, guidance, or club practices.