



Dublin Bay Sailing Club

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Statement of Commitment

Dublin Bay Sailing Club (DBSC) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people who participate in its activities. The Club recognises that children have an inherent right to be protected from harm, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to participate in sport in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment.

Safeguarding is a fundamental element of the Club's governance and operational responsibility. DBSC is committed to complying fully with the Children First Act 2015 and to implementing best practice as set out by Tusla, Irish Sailing, and Sport Ireland. The welfare of the child is the paramount consideration in all decisions and actions.

2. Scope and Application

This Child Safeguarding Statement applies to all children, defined as persons under the age of 18, who participate in Club activities. It covers all on-water and shore-based activities, including training, coaching, racing, youth programmes, events, travel associated with Club activities, and online or electronic communications connected with the Club.

The Statement applies to all officers, committee members, employees, instructors, coaches, volunteers, contractors, parents, guardians, and any other persons acting on behalf of, or representing, Dublin Bay Sailing Club.

3. Legislative and Policy Context

This Statement has been prepared in accordance with, and having due regard to, the following legislative and policy frameworks:

- Children First Act 2015
- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (Tusla)
- Irish Sailing Safeguarding Policy and Procedures
- Sport Ireland Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport
- Relevant data protection legislation



4. Safeguarding Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, DBSC has undertaken a written assessment of potential risks of harm to children participating in Club activities. The purpose of this assessment is to identify areas of risk and to document the procedures in place to manage and mitigate those risks.

Risk Assessment Table

Risk Identified	Persons Affected	Existing Controls	Additional Safeguards
Inadequate supervision during activities	Children	Qualified instructors, safety boat cover, defined ratios	Ongoing monitoring and briefing of volunteers
Inappropriate behaviour or language	Children	Codes of conduct, supervision, reporting procedures	Regular safeguarding training
One-to-one situations without transparency	Children	Open-door policy, avoidance of isolated situations	Parental awareness and consent
Changing and shower facilities	Children	Supervised use, privacy guidance	Clear signage and procedures
Bullying or cyberbullying	Children	Codes of conduct, reporting mechanisms	Education and monitoring
Photography, video, and social media misuse	Children	Parental consent policy	Controlled publication procedures
Travel to and from events	Children	Parental consent, supervision	Written travel plans where required
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	Children	Reporting procedures Policy	Safeguarding Training
Not clear who YP should talk to or report to	Children	Reporting flow chart	Poster with key roles



This risk assessment is reviewed at least every two years, or sooner where there is a change in activities or following a safeguarding concern.

5. Safeguarding Procedures

Dublin Bay Sailing Club has adopted and implements the Irish Sailing Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. These procedures are designed to prevent harm, to promote best practice, and to ensure that concerns are dealt with promptly, fairly, and in accordance with statutory requirements.

The Club has appointed a Club Children's Officer (CCO) and, where required, a Designated Liaison Person (DLP). These roles are central to the operation of safeguarding within the Club and are supported by the Committee.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Club Committee

The Committee has overall responsibility for safeguarding and ensures that appropriate policies, procedures, resources, and oversight are in place. Safeguarding is treated as a standing governance matter.

Club Children's Officer (CCO)

The Club Children's Officer acts as the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns, provides advice and guidance, supports children and families, and promotes good safeguarding practice throughout the Club.

Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

The Designated Liaison Person is responsible for reporting child protection concerns to Tusla and/or An Garda Síochána in line with Children First procedures.

Instructors, Coaches, Staff, and Volunteers

All adults working with children are responsible for safeguarding their welfare. This includes maintaining appropriate professional boundaries, following the codes of conduct, responding appropriately to disclosures, and reporting concerns without delay.



7. Code of Conduct

7.1 Code of Conduct for Adults

All adults involved in Club activities must conduct themselves in a manner that promotes the safety and wellbeing of children. Adults must treat all children with respect, avoid favouritism, maintain appropriate boundaries, use appropriate language, and ensure that their behaviour is open, observable, and accountable at all times. Physical contact should be appropriate, necessary, and carried out in a transparent manner.

Adults must never engage in behaviour that could be construed as abusive, intimidating, discriminatory, or sexually inappropriate.

7.2 Code of Conduct for Children and Young People

Children and young people are expected to treat others with respect, to follow instructions given for their safety, and to behave in a manner that supports a positive and inclusive environment. Bullying, harassment, and discriminatory behaviour are not tolerated.

7.3 Code of Conduct for Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians are expected to support the Club's safeguarding policies, to communicate respectfully with volunteers and staff, and to ensure that children understand and comply with Club rules and procedures.

Breaches of any code of conduct are addressed through Club disciplinary procedures.

8. Safe Recruitment and Vetting

DBSC operates safe recruitment procedures for all roles involving access to children. Garda Vetting, verification of qualifications, safeguarding training, and role-specific induction are required before any person is permitted to work unsupervised with children.

9. Reporting Procedures and Flowchart

Any safeguarding concern, allegation, or disclosure must be reported without delay to the Club Children's Officer. Where there is reasonable cause for concern, the matter will be reported to Tusla and/or An Garda Síochána by the Designated Liaison Person.

Safeguarding Reporting Flow



Concern Identified → Report to Club Children's Officer → Assessment of Concern →

- If reasonable grounds for concern: Report to Tusla / An Garda Síochána
- If no immediate risk: Manage internally with support and monitoring

The welfare of the child is the primary consideration at all stages of this process.

10. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Safeguarding matters are handled with sensitivity and discretion. Information is shared strictly on a need-to-know basis and in accordance with legal requirements. Confidentiality does not prevent the reporting of concerns where a child may be at risk.

11. Training, Awareness, and Communication

DBSC promotes safeguarding awareness throughout the Club. Safeguarding training is provided for instructors, coaches, and volunteers, and information is made available to parents, guardians, and members. Safeguarding responsibilities are reinforced through induction and ongoing communication.

12. Review and Availability

This Child Safeguarding Statement is reviewed at least every two years, or earlier where there is a significant change in activities, legislation, or following a safeguarding incident. The Statement is made available to members, parents, guardians, and the public.

13. Declaration

Dublin Bay Sailing Club hereby adopts this Child Safeguarding Statement and commits to its full implementation.

Signed: Jacqueline McStay

DBSC Commodore

1st January 2026