

Longford Triathlon Club

Safeguarding Statement

2024

1st October 2023



Longford Triathlon Club is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its members. Every individual in the club/organisation should, always, show respect and understanding for their rights, safety, and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club/organisation and the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport.

“To ensure that the best practice is followed by this club we shall work closely with our Governing Body. To promote the best practice in children's sport, we shall comply with the guidelines of the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport; as set out in Section 2.7 which are:”

To act as a role model, and to promote their safety and the safety of young people, Sports Leaders should:

- Be positive, praise and encourage effort as well as results.
- Put the welfare of young people first, strike a balance between this and winning.
- Encourage fair play and treat participants equally.
- Have the relevant knowledge and experience to work with young people.
- Understand developmental needs of young people.

Where possible, and for their own safety, Sports Leaders should avoid:

- Spending excessive amounts of time with children away from others
- Taking sessions alone
- Taking children on journeys alone in their car
- The use of alcohol before coaching, during events and on trips with young people

Sports Leaders should not:

- Use any form of corporal punishment or physical force on a child.
- Take children to their home.
- Exert undue influence over a participant to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Engage in rough physical games, sexually provocative games or allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any kind, and/or make sexually suggestive comments about, or to, a child.
- Take measurements or engage in certain types of fitness testing without the presence of another adult.
- Undertake any form of therapy (hypnosis etc.) in the training of children.
- This risk assessment considers the potential for harm to come to children (persons under the age of 18) while they are in Longford Triathlon Clubs care. In accordance with the Children 1st Act 2015, the risk is of abuse not of general health and safety. To mitigate against any potential abuse which may occur, Longford Triathlon club has created the following policy/guidelines.

Club and Coaching practices

- Only persons who are qualified and registered coaches or Tri Leaders will be permitted to be engaged in the coaching of juniors. Such persons will have been Garda vetted, will have completed the safeguarding course, and signed a code of conduct form.
- Recruitment/engagement of coaches etc – the club is responsible for ensuring that such persons are correctly qualified, and that persons selected to undergo training are of good character and suitable for the role.
- There will be no unauthorised photography or recording activities. If it is required, permission must first be obtained from the athlete and athletes parents/guardians. Social media/mobile phones – group texts will be used for communication among athletes. Parents will be informed of this. Inappropriate or unnecessary contact with individual junior athletes is unacceptable.
- Guidance for travelling – any juniors travelling to events will do so with their parents/guardians. If parents/guardians wish their children to travel with anyone else, they will make such arrangements themselves, and it will not be the responsibility of the club.
- Supervision – the ratio of supervision will be 1:8 with children under 12yrs and 1:10 for 12 plus. Anyone involved in supervision outside of the coach/tri leader must be Garda vetted. The club responsibility will commence at the official start time of any formal training session and cease at the end time of the session. Responsibility for transport to/from training, for changing rooms before and after training, and for collection after training, rests with the parent/guardian.
- Coaches, tri leaders and/or other supervisors should avoid being alone with one junior participant. Any necessary one to one discussions or instruction should be given within clear sight and hearing of others.
- Parents/guardians will be encouraged to stay and observe training sessions.

Reporting Procedures / Complaints and Discipline.

- The club children's officer (CCO) is **Mark Sheridan**.
- The club designated liaison person (DLP) is **Roisin Donohoe**.
- Any matters which might constitute a complaint, or other such issue should be reported in the first instance to one of the above club officers.
- If such a case arises, a detailed written account should be made, outlining all relevant and important information.
- Matters which would logically and reasonably be of a minor or non-serious nature will be dealt with by the club at a local level.
- However, matters of a serious or sinister nature will be reported by the club children's officer to the designated officer of our governing body, Triathlon Ireland.
- Under the protection of persons reporting act, all adults have the option to go directly to the statutory authorities as a concerned individual if they believe a child is being subject to abuse.

The relevant authorities are

- TULSA child and family agency – 01 7718500. www.tusla.ie
- Domestic violence and sexual assault investigation unit,
An Garda Siochana. - 01 6663430. www.dvsaiu@garda.ie
- ISPCC. - 116 000. www.ispcc.ie
- Triathlon Ireland. - 01 2741032.
- Emergency services. – 999/112
- An Garda Siochana confidential number – 1800 666111. www.garda.ie