

RUSH CRICKET CLUB

Date: 28.02.2022

**RUSH CC CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

**Name of service being provided**:

The object of the Club shall be to provide and maintain for its members at its Kenure Park property a ground and facilities for the playing of the game of cricket, and generally to promote the game in the area.

**Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm**:

Our club believes that the best interests of children and young people availing of our services are paramount. Our guiding principles are underpinned by *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* and the guidelines contained in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children’s Sport*. Our guiding principles apply to all staff, volunteers, committee members and students on work placement. All club members must sign up to and abide by these guiding principles and our child safeguarding procedures.

# Risk assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential risk for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

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|  | Activities | Risk Level | Identified Risk | Procedure in place to manage risk |
| 1 | Social Media (Own Club) | Low | Lack of awareness/ policy not communicated | Club Procedures in place around Social Media use |
| 2 | Social Media (Visiting Club) | Medium | Club unaware of Rush CC accepted practices | Inform visiting clubs of club procedure around social media use re Minor’s  |
| 3 | Late collection of Children | Medium | Children going home without permission/ lack of supervision | Two coaches wait till all minors collected |
| 4 | Children in adult sides | Medium | Increased risk of injury/ unknown people/environments | Safety regulations (protective gear etc.) implemented, U18’s not made to open senior matches |
| 5 | Changing rooms/ showering | Low | Inadequate supervision/ Inappropriate behaviour | Minors not left unaccompanied with a single adult in the changing rooms |
| 6 | Photography/Video/ website | Medium | Risk not recognized | Clearer communication of policy around photography/videos |
| 7 | Physical Contact | Low | Harm by an Adult | No unsupervised physical contact with a minor |
| 8 | Away Games/ Transport | Low | Inadequate Supervision | Minors are returned to the Club after matches to be collected by a parent/ family member |
| 9 | Disciplinary Procedures | Low | Policy not know/not implemented | Club Disciplinary Procedures in place  |
| 10 | Bullying | Low | Harm by adults/other children, incidents not reported | Implementation of Anti-Bullying procedures |
| 11 | One-on-One Coaching | Low | Unsupervised contact with an adult | Club Procedures in place re Coaching |

# 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 the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:
* Procedure for management of allegations of abuse.
* Procedure for safe recruitment of workers and volunteers.
* Procedures for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information.
* Procedure for reporting welfare concerns
* Procedures for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are contained in our Child Safeguarding Policy document and are available on request.

# Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our club 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 services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 11th January 2022, or as soon as practicable after that has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: Mark Gough (Secretary)

# Procedures for management of allegations of abuse

If an allegation is made against an employee or a volunteer, the club will ensure that everyone is dealt with in accordance with the club’s guiding principles, child safeguarding procedures, and relevant law. The club has a dual responsibility in respect of the young person and the volunteer. There are two separate procedures to be followed:

1. The reporting procedure to Tusla in respect of the young person and the alleged abuser
2. The internal procedure for dealing with the worker/volunteer.

**The priority is to protect the young person while taking account of the worker/ volunteer’s right to due process.**

* The same person will not have responsibility for making the report and the employment issues
* The agreed reporting procedure will be followed by the DLP or the Deputy DLP
* The Executive must be alerted to the allegation by the DLP or Deputy DLP
* Parents will be informed of any planned action unless there is a further risk to the young person

# Personnel Procedures to be followed

* The worker/volunteer is informed by the Chairperson of an allegation against him/her
* The worker/ volunteer is accorded the opportunity to respond
* The worker/volunteer is asked to stand down while the matter is being investigated bearing in mind that protective measures do not presume guilt
* The matter will be dealt with in accordance with the Club’s disciplinary procedures, if necessary
* Appropriate levels of confidentiality will be maintained

# Procedures for safe recruitment of workers and volunteers

The club will take all reasonable steps to ensure that only suitable people are recruited to work with young people. Procedures have been developed to cover the following:

* Recruitment and selection
* Garda vetting
* Induction on guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures
* Supervision and support for workers and volunteers

# Recruitment and selection

* Job role /description which describes the range of duties, accompanied by a person specification that describes the attributes required
* Roles which involve working with children will be advertised on club notice board and on club website
* Consent to Garda vetting
* The use of interviews
* References will be obtained, where relevant
* Evidence will be sought to verify experience and qualifications
* Identification will be sought, if necessary
* Induction will occur as soon as the preferred candidate is appointed
* There will be a probationary period of 1 month

# Procedures for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information

The child safeguarding training strategy will include the following procedures:

* Induction training to introduce new volunteers/ workers to the club’s guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures. This may take the form of the Basic Awareness Course or an in-house information session convened by the Children’s Officers
* Coaches, Children’s Officers and Designated Liaison Person will attend courses appropriate to their roles
* Refresher courses will be attended every three years
* Dates and names of training programmes will be maintained
* The names of the trainers and the relevant organisations will be maintained
* A signed receipt will be obtained from each volunteer/ worker that they have received a copy of the club’s child safeguarding procedures

**Procedure for reporting welfare concerns**

# Role and Responsibilities

The name and contact details of the Designated Liaison Person must be known to all workers and volunteers within the club as well as parents and children. The club will also appoint a Deputy Designated Liaison person.

# Identifying reasonable grounds for concern

The Children’s First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children states that Tusla should always be informed when a person has **reasonable grounds for concern** that a child may have been, is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected.

# Categories of abuse

Neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. (See Children’s First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children fordefinitions and indicators of abuse)

# Responding to concerns

* Regardless of how a concern comes to a worker/ volunteer’s attention, it must be reported to the Designated Liaison Person
* If reasonable grounds for concern exist, the DLP will make a report to the Tusla duty social worker
* If the DLP decides not to make a report, the worker/volunteer is still entitled to make a report to Tusla
* Recording: there is an obligation to record the details of the concern and the decisions and actions taken
* If there is an immediate risk to the child, the Tusla duty worker is informed as a matter of urgency. If contact is not made with duty social worker, the Garda is informed
* It is best practice to inform parents that a report is being made, but there are instances where this may not be advisable
* Consult Tusla informally, if unsure about making a report
* Complete the Child Protection and Welfare Report Form
* If no report made, keep record of reasons for not making report

# Procedures for appointing a relevant person

1. The club will appoint one person as Designated Liaison Person. This person will liaise with statutory agencies responsible for child protection and welfare, and will be the resource person to any worker/ volunteer who has child protection concerns
2. The club will appoint a Deputy Designated Liaison Person if the DLP is not available. Contact details for both officers will be displayed prominently on notice board and on website
3. The DLP and Deputy DLP will undertake training appropriate to their roles
4. The Designated Liaison Person will also be the relevant person. He/she will be the first point of contact in relation to the Child Safeguarding Statement