



# CIAC

## Catholic Institute Athletic Club

### Rosbrien, Limerick

# Child Safeguarding Statement

#### Nature of Service & Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

The C.I.A.C. Tennis Club, fortified by generations of friendships, volunteerism, and fun, fosters a life-long love of the game in a welcoming environment, encouraging players of all ages and skill-levels to be both good players and good sports. The CIAC Tennis Club will attract players to the best tennis experience by continuously improving our programs to appeal to members and by keeping membership broadly accessible while ensuring our financial sustainability.

C.I.A.C. is committed to good practice which protects young people from harm. We work under the guidance of Tennis Ireland Safeguarding Policies for young people and children in tennis. Club officials, coaches and volunteers in the C.I.A.C. recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations. We seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport. The CIAC has a comprehensive list of policies, practices and activities that are committed to the following principles of best practice in Child Safeguarding and Welfare as laid out in Children First 2017.

- ✚ The safety and welfare of Children is everyone's responsibility.
- ✚ The best interests of the child should be paramount.
- ✚ A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents/guardians and families. Where there is conflict, the child's welfare must come first.
- ✚ Children have a right to be treated with integrity and respect, to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.
- ✚ All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play
- ✚ Competition is an essential element of tennis and should be encouraged in an age and level appropriate manner
- ✚ 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.

We accept and recognise responsibility under the Child Protection Act to provide an environment which promotes the safety of young people at all times. In order to Safeguard Children in our Care we will:

- Develop an awareness of the issues which may lead to young people being harmed
- Create an open environment by identifying a "contact person" whom young people can approach if they need to talk
- Implement child protection guidelines through codes of conduct for all Senior and Junior members of the club, all adults working at the club, volunteers, parents/guardians
- Ensure that our coaches are trained and hold proper qualifications
- Ensure that children aged under 18 being coached and when in the club house during junior activities are supervised by at least one adult
- Keep up to date with training made available through various agencies
- Give parents/guardians, young people and coaches/volunteers information about what activities take place at the club and what they can expect from us
- Let parents and young people know how to voice their concerns or complaints if there is anything they are not happy about
- Share information about concerns with parents and others who need to be informed
- Keep the Safeguarding Policy under "regular review."

#### Risk Assessment document for the Catholic Institute Athletic Club

We are committed to mitigating the risk of harm to children while they are participating in and attending the activities of the Club under the following headings: Club and Coaching Practices, Complaints & Discipline Reporting Procedures, Recruitment, Use of Facilities, Communications and General Risk of Harm.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015, the risk is of abuse and not general health and safety risk (covered under a separate H&S policy and risk assessment).

The C.I.A.C Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents required 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 mitigate identified risk	Risk Level High/Medium/Low
1. Lack of coaching qualification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All coaches are TI or PTR qualified. All coaches attend regular workshops and are trained in Child Safeguarding Level 1</li> <li>• Safeguarding policy is in place and actively promoted</li> </ul>	Low
2. Inadequate Supervision could lead to harm to children and/or risk of being harmed by another through Physical Assault/Bullying (another young person, parent, guardian, adult volunteer, or member of the public)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidelines in place for supervision for sports leaders/coaches/ officials/volunteers</li> <li>• Code of Conduct for Children</li> <li>• Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians</li> </ul>	Low
3. Unauthorised photography & recording activities leading to an Infringement of children's privacy and inappropriate use of photos & recordings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photography and Use of images Policy in place</li> <li>• All members/coaches/officials/volunteers/parents aware of policy</li> <li>• Parents of Juniors signing up for coaching are requested to sign a photography and use of images consent form</li> </ul>	Low
4. Behavioural Issues. Inappropriate behavior, causing harm to children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All members /coaches/officials/volunteers/parents have read and signed up to the CIAC code of conduct</li> <li>• Signed Code of Conduct for Children &amp; Parents</li> <li>• All Volunteers/ Coaches have completed necessary Safeguarding 1 Training</li> <li>• Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Policy includes a Positive Environment Guide</li> </ul>	Low

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code of conduct for parents/guardians</li> <li>• Bullying Policy</li> </ul>	
5. Risk from public, visitors to the club, unauthorised access to changing rooms, showers etc. at any time and or during events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision Ratios maintained at all times</li> </ul>	Low
6. A child or young person could be harmed if an unsuitable person was recruited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rigorous Recruitment Policy is adhered to</li> <li>• Interviewing &amp; Reference Checks</li> <li>• Garda Vetting is in place for all coaches, volunteers, assistant coaches, leaders,</li> <li>• Safeguarding Training</li> </ul>	Low
7. Risk of young Person coming to harm on an away trip or event hosted by C.I.A.C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel/Hosting policy</li> <li>• Supervision</li> <li>• Safeguarding Training</li> <li>• Adult's supervision of children's activities doc</li> <li>• Code of conduct for parents/guardians/coaches/children</li> </ul>	Low
8. Volunteers / coaches/ parents unaware or fail to respond to /or report a Child Safeguarding Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All coaches/leaders/volunteers participate in Child Safeguarding Training and aware of the procedure to be followed.</li> <li>• Procedures and codes of conduct are signed by all coaches ahead of starting and by all parents ahead of any young person attending an event or training.</li> <li>• Individuals are aware of our Designated Liaison persons listed on the Club Notice Board. Ongoing training and updating.</li> </ul>	Low
9. Inappropriate use of social media and communications by young person or adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear Anti-Bullying Policy &amp; Procedures in place</li> <li>• Incident Reporting Policy &amp; Procedures in place</li> <li>• A complaints Policy &amp; Procedure in place</li> <li>• Signed code of conduct for young people. Coaches/volunteers/officials/ signed up to code of conduct, guidelines for Social Media</li> </ul>	Low
10. Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Safeguarding Statement on website and visible on Club Noticeboard. Statement communicated to all members.</li> <li>• Children's Officer's contact details prominently displayed on Club Notice Board</li> </ul>	Low

#### Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*, 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:

- ✚ 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.

#### Implementation

- We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. The C.I.A.C. 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 facilities.
- This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Please note the following:

- That all staff/volunteers/coaches have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, and members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by C.I.A.C.

This Risk Assessment document has been discussed and completed by (CIAC as provider) on 12/07/2022

Signed: *Ulta O'Nullain*

Name: Ulta O'Nullain

Role: (Club Chairperson)

Date: 12/07/2022

Signed: *Sinead Noonan*

Name: Sinead Noonan

Role: (Club Children's Officer)

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022

For queries, please contact Sinead Noonan, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015