



CIAC
Catholic Institute Athletic Club
Rosbrien, Limerick

Child Safeguarding Statement

Nature of Service & Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

The C.I.A.C., fortified by generations of friendships, volunteerism, and fun, fosters a life-long love of sport and community in a welcoming environment. We encourage participation across all ages and skill levels, promoting not only strong athletic ability but also sportsmanship and inclusion. The C.I.A.C. aims to offer the best possible experience across all club activities by continually improving our programs, ensuring broad accessibility, and maintaining financial sustainability.

C.I.A.C. is committed to good practice which protects young people from harm. We work under the guidance of our National Governing Body Safeguarding Policies for young people and children in tennis, squash and hockey. 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 all sports 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.

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	Harm Potential	Risk Level High/ Medium/ Low
1. Lack of coaching qualification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All coaches are TI or PTR qualified. • Recruitment Policy • - all coaches are trained in Safeguarding Level 1 	Medium	Low
2. A child or young person could be harmed if an unsuitable person was recruited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment Policy • Interviewing & Reference Checks • Garda Vetting is in place for all coaches, volunteers, assistant coaches, leaders, and kept up to date • Safeguarding Training 	Medium	Low
3. Risk of harm from inappropriate contact or abuse by a coach, volunteer, parent, or member of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garda Vetting. • Recruitment Policy. • Supervision Policy. • Mandatory safeguarding training • Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians/Members/Coaches 	High	Low
4. Risk of harm through peer-to-peer bullying , exclusion, or physical assault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Bullying Policy. • Child Safeguarding Training. • Code of Conduct for Children; Supervision during activities • Complaints Policy 	Medium	Medium
5. Unauthorised photography & recording activities leading to an Infringement of children's privacy and inappropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photography and Use of images Policy • Parents of Juniors signing up for coaching are requested to sign a photography and use of images consent form & membership form 	Medium	Low

use of photos & recordings			
6. 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"> • Supervision Ratios maintained at all times • Safeguarding policy • Children never alone using changing rooms. Accompanied by either adult, volunteer or parent • Codes of Conduct 	Medium	Medium
7. Risk of young Person coming to harm on an away trip or event hosted by C.I.A.C (by another young person, adult)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel/Hosting policy • Supervision • Safeguarding Training • Adult's supervision of children's activities doc • Code of conduct for parents/guardians/coaches/children 	Medium	Low
8. Volunteers / coaches/ parents unaware or fail to respond to /or report a Child Safeguarding Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All coaches/leaders/volunteers participate in Child Safeguarding Training • Procedures and codes of conduct are signed by all coaches and by all parents ahead of any young person attending an event or training. • DLP and Safeguarding Officers listed on the Club Notice Board. • Complaints Policy on website • Procedure for reporting concerns listed on club notice board & website 	Medium	Medium
9. Inappropriate use of social media and communications by young person or adult young person under 18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear Anti-Bullying Policy & Procedures • Incident Reporting Policy & Procedures • Complaints Policy & Procedure • Code of conducts. • Social Media Policy 	Medium	Low
10. Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement on website and visible on Club Noticeboard for all members & visitors • Children's Officer's contact details prominently displayed on Club Notice Board & website 	Medium	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 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 2027 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. & on website

This Risk Assessment document has been discussed and completed by (CIAC as provider) on 26/01/2026

Signed: 
Name: Sean Moran

Role: (Club Chairperson)

Date: 26.01.2026.

Signed: 
Name: Sinead Noonan

Role: (Designated Liaison Person)

Date: 26/01/2026.

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