# Swim Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement

Swim Ireland is the National Governing Body (NGB) for aquatic disciplines providing opportunities for young people though involvement and participation in swimming, water polo and diving activities operating at club, regional and national levels, under the under the Swim Ireland Safeguarding Policy. Our organisation believes that the best interests of children and young people attending our sport are paramount and believe that all children in our sport environments have the right to be protected, treated with respect, listened to and to have their views taken into consideration in all decisions affecting them.

The Swim Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement identifies the risks and how these are mitigated, with a full risk assessment of harm undertaken on 1st March 2025. All Swim Ireland policies are available on the Swim Ireland website .

| Identified area of risk of harm | Policy or Procedure in place to mitigate risk of harm |
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| NGB Programme, Events and Coaching Practices<br>Identified risks causing harm to a child:<br>Inappropriate behaviour towards a child<br>Failure to report harm to a child<br>Working in or undertaking unauthorised/unsupervised activities involving a child or children | Codes of Conduct<br>Poor practice and Whistleblowing policy<br>Physical Contact<br>Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse policy<br>Safeguarding Roles including their responsibilities<br>Safeguarding Training<br>Vetting policy |
| Recruitment risks:<br>Unqualified/untrained persons working with a child<br>Lack of clarity of role recruited to work with a child | Recruitment policy<br>Safeguarding Training<br>Vetting policy |
| Complaints & Discipline risks:<br>Lack of awareness how to raise issues including poor practice and concerns of harm<br>Failure to raise a concern | Complaints & Disciplinary procedures<br>Communications policy<br>Poor practice and Whistleblowing policy<br>Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse policy |
| Use of indoor and outdoor facilities<br>Identified risks causing harm to a child:<br>Lack of supervision when using facilities<br>Visitors or other users of the facility, e.g. facility staff, parents, public, contractors | Codes of Conduct<br>Person on Duty<br>Poor practice and Whistleblowing policy<br>Spectator Behaviour policy<br>Supervision policies |
| Communications<br>Identified risks of causing harm to a child:<br>Using social media and/or online or virtual platforms<br>Unauthorised taking or use of images (digital or film) | Codes of Conduct<br>Communications policy<br>Filming & Photography policy including Use of Devices guidance<br>Social Media policy including Virtual Learning Platforms |
| General Risks of Harm<br>Identified risks of causing harm to a child:<br>Adult to child harm<br>Child to child harm<br>Travelling with a child or children – single journeys and overnight trips at national level | Anti-bullying Promise and policy<br>Codes of Conduct<br>Inclusion policy<br>Poor practice and Whistleblowing policy<br>Spectator Behaviour policy<br>Travelling policy<br>Well-being and Mental Health policy |
| Reporting Procedures<br>Identified risks of causing harm to a child:<br>Failure to report disclosure, allegations, or concerns of harm to a child<br>Failure to report staff or volunteer causing harm<br>Failure to identify mandated person | Internal process for maintaining register of Mandated Person<br>Membership Risk Assessment policy includes managing the process where a child is harmed by a member or volunteer<br>Poor practice and Whistleblowing Policy<br>Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse policy (mandated & non-mandated reports)<br>Swim Ireland Employee Handbook and Contractor contracts includes managing the process where a child is harmed by staff or contractor |

The Child Safeguarding Statement (CSS) is developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015. This CSS, together with our guiding principles are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and current legislation such as the Children First Act 2015, Child Care Act 1991, Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 and the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012.
Our guiding principles apply to all paid staff, volunteers, committee/board members and students on work placement within our organisation, who must sign up to and abide by these guiding principles and our child safeguarding procedures.

We review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years or sooner if necessary due to organisational issues or changes in legislation or national policy.

Swim Ireland has an employed Safeguarding Lead whose role and responsibilities incorporate that of the Mandated Person, National Designated Liaison Person and the Relevant Person (for the purposes of this Child Safeguarding Statement).
The Swim Ireland Mandated Person is Kate Hills, contact phone: 0868560672; contact mail: katehills@swimireland.ie
Swim Ireland is the Provider of relevant services, operating under the Chief Executive Officer (Interim) Mary McMorrow

Head of Safeguarding, Ethics and Youth Development, National Children's Officer for Swim Ireland

Signed:

Name: Kate Hills Email: katehills@swimireland.ie Phone no: 0868560672

Swim Ireland Head office: Irish Sport HQ, National Sports Campus, Blanchardstown, Dublin, D15 DY62; phone: +353 16251120
For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the Relevant Person – Kate Hills (contact details shown above)