CCO Forum 9

September 2026

Updates

- Safeguarding update
  - Introducing athlete safeguarding into general safeguarding policy – this will include O18 athletes
  - Separate section for safeguarding adults
  - Will take place over the next 6 – 9 months
- Safeguarding Training – check policy
  - SG1 tutor led – will be introducing adult safeguarding themes (Nov/Dec 2026)
  - SG2 & SG3 – both needed for CCO

Updates

- Vetting – encourage use of guidance on website
  - Printing old applications (from JustGo)
  - Using old forms
  - Using wrong Swim Ireland number
  - Not reading guidance (who can validate; what ID; where is my credential; etc.)
- Officials – working with National Water Polo Committee

Exit Survey

- Survey for:
  - athletes
  - parents
- Guidance for sending out include club achievements
- Dealing with returned surveys:

1. Only for CCO – not to share unless concerned about harm – Safeguarding Dept
2. Consider potential gaps / concerning behaviours

Feedback from Exit Survey

Feedback from athletes:

1. Can it be anonymised?
   - NO: becomes part of your general observations
   - YES: raise issues in relevant forum
   - YES, BUT …: general observations
   - e.g. no progression criteria; coach shouts/ignores me
2. What actions need to happen?
   - e.g.: no progression criteria – check this is in place and conveyed to all members
   - e.g.: observe coach; ensure members understand unacceptable behaviour and who they can talk with.

Feedback from Exit Survey

Follow up if acceptable

Thank you for raising *(matter)* in your survey; we are making sure that ….

… criteria is distributed etc

… athletes know who to come to and how to raise an issue in the future etc.

- Care not to criticise
- Care not to lay blame at their door

Dr Kate Hills, Head of Safeguarding, Ethics & Youth Development

Discussion – case study

A club athlete confides to the Children's Club Officer that their coach is controlling, deciding who they socialise with during competitions, monitors their weight, asks to see their messages, and threatens to remove them from the squad if they are “not committed enough”.

The athlete says: “I know it's controlling. But this is my last chance at international competition. I've decided it's worth putting up with for another year. Please don't interfere.”

The coach is extremely successful and works with several other athletes.

Discussion – case study

Discuss

1. Should choice be respected?
2. How do you respond?
3. Who can this be shared with?
4. Where does consent play a part in this?
5. What might you consider for other athletes
6. Safeguarding or taking away autonomy

Breakout rooms 1 & 2: athlete is 16 years old

Breakout rooms 3 & 4: athlete is 19 years old

Dr Kate Hills, Head of Safeguarding, Ethics & Youth Development

Dates for 2026

Safeguarding courses

SG2

Monday 28th September - FULL

Wednesday 4th November 6 – 9pm

SG3

Monday 12th October FULL

Wednesday 25th November 6 – 9pm

Next events

Club Conference especially for CCOs and CDOs

7th November – Limerick

8th November – Athlone

14th November – Dublin

March 2027 – Belfast

Affiliation

Until 14th October

Dr Kate Hills, Head of Safeguarding, Ethics & Youth Development

CCO Forum dates

Month	Wednesday 7 – 8pm	Thursday 1 – 2pm
October	14th	15th
November	18th	19th
December	9th	10th
January 2027	13th	14th
February 2027	10th	11th

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