

Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1 – Club Information

Name: Suttonians Hockey Club

Sport: Hockey

Location: Leinster

Size: c. 30 sports leaders (coaches/volunteers)/ c. 328 members

Activities: Playing hockey

Section 2 – Principles to safeguard children from harm

Suttonians Hockey Club is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidances of Hockey Ireland's Safeguarding Policies our staff, both volunteers and employed, working with our young people throughout the organization, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport. The following set of principles should be adhered to:

Importance of childhood – The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone in sport.

Needs of the child – All children's sport experiences should be guided by what is best for children. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of young people.

Integrity in relationships – Adults interacting with children in sport are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.

Fair Play – All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasized, and organisers should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.

Quality atmosphere & ethos – Children's sport should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.



Competition – Competition is an essential element of sport and should be encouraged in an age appropriate manner. A child centered ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.

Equality – 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.

Section 3 – Risk Assessment

The Suttonians Hockey Club written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, 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: Club and Coaching Practices; Complaints and Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications; and General Risk of Harm.

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
<p>Club and Coaching Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of coaching qualification - Supervision issues - Unauthorised photography and recording activities - Behavioural Issues - Lack of gender balance amongst coaches - No guidance for travelling & away trips - Lack of adherence with procedures in Safeguarding policy 	<p>Safe Recruitment Procedures</p> <p>Best Practice Guidance – <i>Supervision</i></p> <p>Filming and Photography Guidance Best Practice Guidance – <i>Use of Mobile Phones</i></p> <p>Code of Conduct/Safeguarding 1/Complaints and Appeals Procedure</p> <p>Best Practice Guidance – <i>Supervision</i></p> <p>Best Practice Guidance – <i>Overnight, Staying Away & Hosting</i> Safeguarding training</p> <p>Complaints and Appeals Procedure</p>



<p>Complaints & Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy - Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent - Complaints not being dealt with seriously 	<p>Complaints and Appeals Procedure Guidelines on General Issues - Discipline</p>
<p>Reporting Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures - No DLP appointed - No Club safeguarding officer / relevant person Appointed - Concerns of abuse or harm not reported - Not clear who children should talk to or report to 	<p>Reporting and Protection Procedures / Code of conduct / Safeguarding Training</p> <p>Names and contact details of CO and DLP publicly posted</p>
<p>General Risk of Harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harm not being recognised - Harm caused by child to child coach to child volunteer to child member to child visitor to child - General behavioural issues - Issues of Bullying - Vetting of staff/volunteers - Issues of Online Safety 	<p>Code of Ethics / Safeguarding Training / Code of conduct / Best Practice Guidance / Reporting and Protection Procedures</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Policy</p> <p>Safe Recruitment Procedures / Vetting Policy</p> <p>Social Media Policy</p>
<p>Communications and Social Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors - No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors - Unauthorised photography & recording of activities 	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement (display) / Code of Ethics / Code of conduct</p> <p>Filming and Photography Guidance</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inappropriate use of social media and communications <u>by</u> under 18's - Inappropriate use of social media and communications <u>with</u> under 18's 	<p>Best Practice Guidance – <i>Use of Mobile Phones</i></p> <p>Social Media Policy</p>
<p>Use of Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unauthorised access to designated children’s play & practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. - Unauthorised exit from children’s areas - Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas - Missing or found child on site - Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc. 	<p>Best Practice Guidance – Supervision</p> <p>Filming and Photography Guidance</p> <p>Best Practice Guidance – <i>Use of Mobile Phones</i></p> <p>Missing/Found child policy</p> <p>Code of Ethics – Good Practice</p> <p>Code of Conduct</p>
<p>Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment of inappropriate people - Lack of clarity on roles - Unqualified or untrained people in role 	<p>Safe Recruitment Procedures</p> <p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <p>Safe Recruitment Procedures</p>

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 08 Jan2023.

Section 4 – 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 our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

Suttonians Hockey Club has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:



- 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

The Mandated Person for Hockey Ireland is the National Children's Officer.

Section 5 – 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 activities.

Please note the following:

- That all sports leaders have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, the Agency and members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by the Club.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on or before 08 Jan 2025.

Signed:  Date: 08 Jan 2023

(On behalf of Suttonians Hockey Club)

Name: Ciara Walsh, Designated Person Phone no: 086 381 7890

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact Ciara above or Barbara Reamsbottom – Junior Coordinator/ Children's Officer. Phone: 087 653 7082