



## Paralympics Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement

### Section 1 – Sports Organisation Information:

Paralympics Ireland is an organisation focused on providing Elite Irish athletes with disabilities the opportunity to compete at Paralympic Games, World and European Championships.

Organisation details:

- Name: Paralympics Ireland
- Sport: Multi-sport
- Location: Irish Sports HQ: Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.
- Size (Number of staff/members/clubs): 17 staff, 1 intern and 3 contract staff members/ 15 NF members.
- Activities: There are 22 summer sports and 6 Winter sports within the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Games Programme. We currently have Archery/Athletics/Badminton/Boccia/Canoe/Cycling/Equestrian/Powerlifting/Rowing/Shooting/Swimming/TableTennis/Triathlon/Wheelchair Basketball/Wheelchair Tennis/Wheelchair Rugby.
- Paralympics Ireland also currently acts as the NGB for Para-Swimming and Para-Athletics.

### Section 2 - Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

Paralympics Ireland is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policy our staff, both volunteers and employed, working with young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe child-centred environment for young people to grow and develop. The safeguarding policy only becomes effective if an athlete under 18 years of age is Each of the below elements is a key part of safeguarding and should be closely adhered to by Paralympics Ireland.

- **Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved 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 emphasised, 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 centred 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**

This Paralympics Ireland 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 require to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>
<p><b><u>Club and Coaching Practices</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of coaching qualification.</li> <li>— Supervision issues.</li> <li>— Unauthorised photography &amp; recording activities.</li> <li>— Behavioural Issues.</li> <li>— Lack of gender balance amongst coaches</li> <li>— No guidance for travelling &amp; away trips</li> <li>— Lack of adherence with misc. procedures in Safeguarding policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— All coaches to be qualified as per recruitment policy and NF Agreement.</li> <li>— Participant Rules, Accommodation and Supervision policy to ensure there are no supervision issues.</li> <li>— Photography &amp; Use of Images policy</li> <li>— Participant Rules – Schedule 3, Section B / Safeguarding 1 / Disciplinary policy implemented to deal with any behavioural issues that may arise.</li> <li>— Recruitment, Accommodation and supervision policy implemented to ensure coaches are aware of gender balance</li> <li>— Child Safeguarding Training / Travel/Away trip document, supervision policy and accommodation policies to provide guidance on travelling and away trips.</li> <li>— Education and training programme in place for staff and volunteers. Implementation overseen by Safety Officer. / Complaints &amp; disciplinary policy in place.</li> </ul>

<p><b><u>Complaints &amp; Discipline</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of awareness of a Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy.</li> <li>— Difficulty in raising an issue by child &amp; orparent</li> <li>— Complaints not being dealt with seriously</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Staff and volunteer coaches must complete Safeguarding 1 course and annual educational and training workshop</li> <li>— DSO contact details promoted and made available. Information session for parents and athletes annually.</li> <li>— Training covers complaints are taken seriously and passed on through appropriate channels.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Reporting Procedures</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of knowledge of organisational &amp; statutory reporting procedures</li> <li>— Concerns of abuse or harm not reported.</li> <li>— Not clear who YP should talk to or report to.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Stakeholders made aware of Reporting procedures and Participant rules. Covered in Safeguarding Training.</li> <li>— Reporting procedures/policy / Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 covers this.Details of DSO &amp; MP made publicised.</li> <li>— Post the names of DSO and Mandated person.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Use of Facilities</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Unauthorised access to designated children’s play &amp; practice areas &amp; to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.</li> <li>— Unauthorised exit from children’s areas.</li> <li>— Photography, filming or recording inprohibited areas.</li> <li>— Missing or found child on site.</li> <li>— Children sharing facilities with adults e.g.dressing room, showers etc...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Ensuring Safeguarding policy isimplemented by coaches.</li> <li>— Ensuring Safeguarding policy and supervision policy is implemented by coaches.</li> <li>— Any incident of such to be reported to on-site staff and coaches</li> <li>— Implement Safeguarding training andcontact Garda if not resolved quickly</li> <li>— Coaches to implement Safeguarding andsupervision policy.</li> </ul>

<p><b><u>Recruitment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Recruitment of inappropriate people.</li> <li>— Lack of clarity on roles.</li> <li>— Unqualified or untrained people in role.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Recruitment policy implemented which includes Garda vetting and reference checking.</li> <li>— Clear job description for each role.</li> <li>— Qualification requirements clearly outlined and evidence requested.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Communications</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors.</li> <li>— No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members of visitors.</li> <li>— Unauthorised photography &amp; recording of activities</li> <li>— Inappropriate use of social media &amp; communications by under 18’s</li> <li>— Inappropriate use of social media &amp; communications with under 18’s.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement to create awareness amongst members and visitors.</li> <li>— Child Safeguarding Statement easily available on website. Code of Behaviour within Participant Rules.</li> <li>— Any incident of such to be reported to on-site staff and coaches. Coaches educated on areas. Coach Education and training</li> <li>— Photography &amp; Filming section within Communication Policy</li> <li>— Athletes under the age of 18 are to be made aware of Participant Rules and to adhere to them. Communication Policy implemented</li> <li>— Participant Rules to be implemented. Communications Policy implemented.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>General Risk of Harm</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Harm not being recognised.</li> <li>— Harm caused by: Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child. Member to Child. Visitor to Child.</li> <li>— General behavioural issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Safeguarding policy &amp; Child Safeguarding Training to create more awareness of harm.</li> <li>— Safeguarding policy &amp; Child Safeguarding Training to create more awareness of harm.</li> <li>— Code of Conduct. Participant rules assist with any general behavioural issues.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Issues of Bullying.</li> <li>— Vetting of staff/volunteers.</li> <li>— Issues of Online Safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Participant Rules to be adhered to by athletes and coaches. Rules to be implemented to prevent issues of bullying.</li> <li>— All staff/volunteers to be vetted and recruited under the recruitment policy</li> <li>— Participant Rules to be adhered to by athletes and coaches.</li> </ul>
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The Risk Assessment was undertaken

#### **Section 4 – 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 the requirements under The Children First Act 2015, and in Northern Ireland – the Children (NI) Order and Cooperating to Safeguarding Children and Young People 2017). 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.

**Paralympics Ireland** 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.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

***Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.***

The Mandated/Relevant Person for Paralympics Ireland is **Tara Evans**.

## **Section 5 – Implementation**

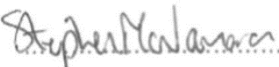
We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. We are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities.

Please note the following:

- That all staff 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 Child Safeguarding Statement was most recently reviewed in 10/04/2024**

### CEO

Signed:   
Name: Stephen McNamara

Date: 10/04/2024  
Phone no: 01- 6251175

### Relevant Person

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 10/04/2024

Name: Tara Evans

Phone no: 01- 6251175

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact **Tara Evans at 01 625 1175** or [tara@paralympics.ie](mailto:tara@paralympics.ie)