



## **CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

### **Leinster Open Sea Races**

**March 2024**

#### Nature of Leinster Open Sea Races

The Leinster Open Sea calendar is a series of open water swimming races that take place during the summer months in the Leinster region. The race series is run voluntarily in good faith by the members of the open-water swimming community for the benefit of the Leinster open-water swimming community. Leinster Open Sea promotes graciousness in both winning and losing, recognising that participating and being an active and sporting member of our open-water swimming community is what contributes to the longevity, sporting and community tradition of our long-standing sport.

#### Children/vulnerable adults and the Leinster Open Sea races

In the above context children and vulnerable adults can attend race calendar events and they do so under the strict responsibility of their parents /carers or guardians. With the appropriate parental /carer/guardian's consent children and vulnerable adults are permitted to participate in races. LOS 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.

## Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults

The Leinster Open Sea committee are committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults partaking in the sport and in attendance at race events and that all children will be equally protected from harm regardless of race, ability, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

As defined in the Children First Act, 2015, “harm” means, in relation to a child

- assault, ill-treatment, or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child’s health, development, or welfare, or
- sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions, or circumstances, or otherwise
- Or the harm caused to children through the misuse of digital technology, recording devices or on internet platforms.

This Child Safeguarding Statement identifies the risks and how these are mitigated. The details here are based on the full risk assessment of harm undertaken in March 2024.

LOS guiding principles are in place to safeguard children and young people/vulnerable adults. Everyone in our organisation e.g. all workers and volunteers, participants, guardians and young people will abide by their requirements and intent in respect of safeguarding children and young people.

## Risk Assessment for Children and Vulnerable Adults at LOS Events

Identified area of risk of harm	Policies/Procedures in place to Mitigate Risk
<p><b>Recruitment risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of clarity of role of those recruited to work at events</li> <li>• Unqualified/untrained persons working with U18 children/vulnerable adult.</li> </ul>	<p>Recruitment policy Safeguarding Training Vetting policy Supervision Policy</p>
<p><b>Complaints &amp; Discipline risks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of awareness how to raise issues including poor practice and concerns of harm.</li> <li>• Failure to raise a concern/report harm to a child</li> </ul>	<p>Safeguarding Training Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedures Communications policy Poor practice and Whistleblowing policy Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse policy Procedure for managing allegations of abuse against staff.</p>
<p><b>Communications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using social media and/or online platforms</li> <li>• Unauthorised taking or use of images (digital or film)</li> <li>• Use of inappropriate language</li> </ul>	<p>Codes of Conduct Communications policy Filming &amp; Photography policy including Use of Devices guidance Social Media policy</p>
<p><b>Reporting Procedures:</b> Lack of knowledge of organisational &amp; statutory reporting procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No DLP appointed.</li> <li>• Concerns of abuse or harm not reported.</li> <li>• Not clear who Young Person should talk to or report to.</li> </ul>	<p>Safeguarding Training  Reporting procedures/policy.  Post the names of CCO, DLP and Mandated person.</p>
<p><b>General Risks of Harm:</b> Identified risks of causing harm to a child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult to child harm</li> <li>• Child to child harm</li> <li>• Inappropriate behaviour towards a child</li> <li>• Lack of supervision at events</li> </ul>	<p>Anti-bullying Promise and policy Codes of Conduct Inclusion policy Recognising and Reporting Child Abuse policy Poor practice and Whistleblowing policy Supervision Policy</p>

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.

Leinster Open Sea will follow the procedures in place as set out by the National governing body for swimming Swim Ireland as part of our Safeguarding Policies: See link

<https://swimireland.ie/safeguarding/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.

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 Swim Ireland Safeguarding Policies, 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, Childcare Act 1991, Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 and the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012.

We will 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.

**For any queries regarding this Child Statement, please contact**

**LOS Relevant Person: Elena Green**

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**Club Child Officer and Designated Liaison Officer**

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**Next review date March 2026**