

# **Emerald Athletic Club Child Safeguarding Statement**

- 1. Name:** Emerald Athletic Club  
Juvenile and Senior Track and field Athletics club.  
We have approximately 126 members in total the majority of which are juvenile athletes.
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## **2. Services:**

Emerald athletics club is a juvenile and senior athletic club based in Limerick city and is affiliated to Athletics Ireland. Emerald AC uses the University of Limerick's running track and infield as our training facility to provide coaching for track and field events.

The club is open to membership to all children over the age of eight years.

The management of the club and coaching of athletes is provided by volunteers.

Athletes are divided into different groups according to their age and groups are allocated appropriate coaches. Emerald AC caters athletes of all abilities ranging from juvenile club athletes to senior international athletes.

## **3. Principles**

Emerald AC aims to provide a positive enjoyable experience to all children of all abilities, in a child centred and safe environment.

While providing this athletic coaching and in the interest of child welfare Emerald AC is guided by the Child First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection & Welfare of Children, Dept. of Health & Children 2011 and in addition by all the codes/policies and procedures of Athletics Ireland including the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport, Irish Sports Council & Sports Council Northern Ireland, 2000 (Reviewed 2005).

Emerald AC values all its members and wishes to provide a safe and fun environment in which to promote the sport of athletics as well as to promote the wellbeing and personnel development of our juvenile members.

## **4. Risk Assessment**

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

This risk assessment had been carried out for training which takes place in the University of Limerick which is Emerald AC's home training ground and using the "harm" definition as per The Child First Act 2015. This training facility is in the open and within full view of all other coaches, parents and athletes track side and in full view of everyone in the Sports Bar and Restaurant which overlooks the Sports bar.

*Please see Risk Assessment attached.*

## **5. 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 Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.

## **6. Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service 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 service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on **11/03/20**, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

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

Brendan Russell - Secretary

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Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.