

# Child Safeguarding Statement

## Section 1 – Tivoli Tigers Special Olympic Gymnastics Club

provides various sporting activities and opportunities for young people and vulnerable adults with an intellectual disability through participation in Special Olympics activities

Club details:

- Name: Tivoli Tigers Special Olympic Gymnastic Club
- Sport(s): Artistic Gymnastics
- Training Venue/s: Newpark Sports Hall Blackrock

## Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

**Tivoli Tigers** is committed to safeguarding children under the guidance of Special Olympics Ireland Safeguarding Policies, our volunteers working with our young people, throughout the organisation, 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 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 accordance with ability, age and gender. 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 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 ( low, medium, high) and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Club and Coaching Practices			
Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified	Risk L,M,H	Action Required
Lack of coaching qualification.	Coach Standards Policy /Recruitment policy	medium	Access to the correct level Gymnastics Ireland training courses being negotiated on our behalf by S.O.I. and when available will be completed by our coaches.
Supervision issues	Supervision policy	Low	S.O. policy in place 4: 1 ratio
Unauthorised photography & recording activities	Photography & Use of Images policy	low	S.O policy available on <a href="http://www.specialolympics.ie">www.specialolympics.ie</a> . Hard copies available in the club folder at every session.
Behavioural Issues	Code of Conduct / Safeguarding 1 for all registered volunteers / Complaints & Disciplinary policy on file in hall at every session.A copy S.O.I. Safeguarding policy available on file in hall at every session.	low	Athletes sign a code of conduct at the beginning of each new sporting year.New volunteers take safeguarding 1 before allowed to volunteer
Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	Coaching Standards policy/ Supervision policy	low	Recruitment drive going on. Volunteers sign code of conduct before their start date and are given written information regarding their role and duties.
No guidance for traveling & away trips	Travel/Away trip policy on file / Child Safeguarding Training available through S.O.I. for all volunteers.	low	New S.O policy -available online and hard copy in club folder at training session.

Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy	Safeguarding Policy / Complaints & disciplinary policy	low	All volunteers have done a Safeguarding course. Refer to new SO safeguarding policies on line and hard copy in the club folder at session.
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<b>Complaints &amp; Discipline</b>			
<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>	<b>Risk L,M,H</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy	Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure.	low	Refer to <a href="http://www.specialolympics.ie">www.specialolympics.ie</a> Complaints Pdf available to download on S.O.I. website hardcopy in club folder at session
Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent	Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure.	low	Small club- issues are readily dealt with on an ongoing basis. Committee encourages dialogue. Complaints procedures policy(hard copy) in club folder and available in hall at session.
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure.	low	Committee encourages dialogue Complaints procedure form available in folder in hall at every session

<b>Reporting Procedures</b>			
<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>	<b>Risk L,M,H</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
Lack of knowledge of	Reporting procedures/policy / Coaching Standards Policy /	low	All volunteers receive safeguarding training

organisational & statutory reporting procedures	Code of Conduct/Safeguarding Training Policy/Induction Training		Pdf SO safeguarding procedures available online. Hard copies of all policies available at session in club folder in hall.
No Designated Liaison Person appointed	Reporting procedures/policy	low	Our Chair is our designated liaison officer
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	Reporting procedures/policy / Child Safeguarding Training – L1	low	All our coaches and volunteers have safeguarding training
Not clear who young people should talk to or report to	Post the names of Club Safeguarding Officer, Designated Liaison Person (Chairperson) and Mandated Person for reporting complaints/incidents too.	low	Poster in hall at all sessions.

<b>Use of Facilities</b>			
<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>	<b>Risk L,M,H</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.....	Supervision policy / Coaching Standards Policy/ Codes of Conduct	low	Two volunteers accompany athlete to the toilet as per their written roles and induction training
Unauthorised exit from children's areas	Supervision policy / Coaching Standards Policy	low	Member of committee/ parent on duty at the door at all times
Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas	Photography policy and use of devices in private zones	low	A Pdf photography policy available on line <a href="http://www.specialolympic.ie">www.specialolympic.ie</a> and hard copy available in club folder at session

Missing or found child on site	Missing or found child policy/procedures/Facility procedures/Health +Safety Policy	low	Supervision at all times. Pdf online at <a href="http://www.specialolympic.ie">www.specialolympic.ie</a> and hard copy available in folder in hall at session
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc...	Safeguarding policy/Event Management Guidelines	low	Not used. Access only to use the bathroom under supervision.

<b>Recruitment</b>			
<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>	<b>Risk L,M,H</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
Recruitment of inappropriate people	Recruitment policy/Safeguarding Policy	Low	Garda vetting in place
Lack of clarity on roles	Recruitment policy/Role descriptors	low	Volunteers have written role describing their duties and a code of conduct to sign
Unqualified or untrained people in role	Recruitment policy/ Coaching Standards Policy/Safeguarding policy	low	Parent sometimes assists with their own athlete but are registered with S.O.

<b>General Risk of Harm</b>			
<b>Risk Identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified</b>	<b>Risk L,M,H</b>	<b>Action Required</b>
Harm not being recognised	Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training/Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults training	low	Reporting structure in place refer to SO Safeguarding policy available online and hard copy available in folder in hall at session

Harm caused by: Child to Child Coach to Child Volunteer to Child Member to Child Visitor to Child	Safeguarding policy / Safeguarding Training L1	low	Make sure safeguarding officers are known by all. Poster of officers on wall in hall
General behavioural issues	Code of Conduct	low	Athletes sign a code of behaviour/conduct at the beginning of every new sporting year.
Issues of Bullying	Anti-Bullying policy/Code of conduct	low	Code of conduct signed by athletes at the beginning of the year.
Vetting of staff/volunteers	Recruitment policy / Vetting policy	low	Safeguarding level 1 taken by all volunteers in the club
Issues of Online Safety	Social Media / Online Safety policy	low	Refer to SO Policy available online and hard copy in folder at session
Safety in Virtual Environments	Safeguarding in a Virtual learning environment guidelines	low	S.O. online and hard copy of policy in folder at session

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on

#### **Section 4 – Procedures**

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015 and in Northern Ireland the Club Framework for Safeguarding Standards in Sport. 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.

Tivoli Tigers 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 Special Olympics Ireland is Amanda Ní Ghabhann.

## **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 volunteers 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

This Child Safeguarding Statement this will be reviewed on September 1, 2025

Chairperson Signed: Nesssa Coffey

On behalf of Tivoli Tigers Special  
Olympic Gymnastics Club

Club Safeguarding Officer : Jenny  
Edwards

*For queries on this Child Safeguarding  
Statement, please contact*

*Nessa Coffey*

Date: 12th October 2023

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