

Child Safeguarding Statement – Tivoli Tigers Special Olympics Gymnastics Club

Section 1 – Introduction

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

Club details:

- Name: Tivoli Tigers Special Olympics Gymnastics Club
- Sport(s): Artistic Gymnastics
- Training Venue/s: Newpark Sports Centre, Blackrock, Co Dublin

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 SOI and when

			available will be completed by our coaches
Supervision issues	Supervision policy	Low	SO policy in place 4:1
Unauthorised photography & recording activities	Photography & Use of Images policy	Low	SO policy available on www.specialolympics.ie and club website www.tivolitigers.ie
Behavioural Issues	Code of Conduct / Safeguarding	Low	Athletes sign a Code of Conduct at the beginning of each new sporting year. New volunteers must take Safeguarding 1 before starting
Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	Coaching Standards policy/ Supervision policy	Low	Recruitment drive on-going. Volunteer sign a Code of Conduct before their start date and are briefed on their role and duties
No guidance for travelling & away trips	Travel/Away Trip policy on file/Child Safeguarding training available through SOI for all volunteers	Low	SOI policy – linked to club website also
Lack of adherence with miscellaneous procedures in Safeguarding policy	Safeguarding Policy/Complaints & Disciplinary Policy	Low	SOI policy – available online and on club website

Complaints and Discipline

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified	Risk L, M, H	Action Required
Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy	Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure.	Low	SOI Complaints policy online – copy of relevant form in Club folder in locker at venue
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 dialogues. Complaints procedure/policy in Club folder at venue
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure.	Low	Committee encourages dialogue at all times

Reporting Procedures

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified	Risk L, M, H	Action Required
Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures	Reporting procedures/policy / Coaching Standards Policy / Code of Conduct/Safeguarding Training Policy/Induction Training	Low	SG1 training is minimum requirement for all volunteers
No Designated Liaison Person appointed	Reporting procedures/policy	Low	Jean O'Sullivan is our DLP
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	Reporting procedures/policy / Safeguarding Training – L1	Low	SG1 training is minimum requirement for all volunteers
Not clear who young people should talk to or report to	Post the names of Club Safeguarding Officer, Designated Liaison Person and Mandated Person for reporting complaints/incidents to	Low	These are displayed at Sign In Desk at each training session

Use of Facilities

Risk Identified	Procedures in place to manage risk identified	Risk L, M, H	Action Required
Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.....	Standards Policy/ Codes of Conduct	Low	Two volunteers accompany athlete to toilet as per their written roles and instructions
Unauthorised exit from children's areas	Supervision policy / Coaching Standards Policy	Low	Member of committee or 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	Photography Policy on specialolympics.ie and link to our club website also
Missing or found child on site	Missing or found child policy/procedures/Facility procedures/Health +Safety Policy	Low	Supervision at all times – policies online at SOI and club website
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc...	Safeguarding policy/Event Management Guidelines	Low	Facilities are not shared – access to toilet in changing room supervised as above

Recruitment

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified	Risk L,M,H	Action Required
Recruitment of inappropriate people	Recruitment policy/Safeguarding Policy	Low	SOI volunteering process to be adhered to – Garda vetting included

Lack of clarity on roles	Recruitment policy/Role descriptors	Low	Volunteers have written roles outlining their duties and a Code of Conduct to sign
Unqualified or untrained people in role	Recruitment policy/ Coaching Standards Policy/Safeguarding policy	Low	Parents occasionally assist with their own athlete but are registered with SOI

General Risk of Harm

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified	Risk L,M,H	Action Required
Harm not being recognised	Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training/Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults training	Low	Reporting structure in place – SOI Safeguarding policy online and on club website
Harm caused by: Child to Child Coach to Child Volunteer to Child Member to Child Visitor to Child	Safeguarding policy / Safeguarding Training L1	Low	Ensure SG Officer and DLP are known by all – posters displayed at Sign In Desk each week
General behavioural issues	Code of Conduct	Low	Each year Athlete and Family Codes of Conduct to be signed
Issues of Bullying	Anti-Bullying policy/Code of conduct	Low	Code of Conduct as above
Vetting of staff/volunteers	Recruitment policy / Vetting policy	Low	SG1 is part of SOI volunteering journey
Issues of Online Safety	Social Media / Online Safety policy	Low	SOI policy online and link on club website
Safety in Virtual Environments	Safeguarding in a Virtual learning environment guidelines	Low	

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 17th September 2026.

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 as advised by Special Olympics Ireland copies of which can be found on their website, with links from our website:

- 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 Sinead Tarrant (sinead.tarrant@specialolympics.ie).

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 on the Club website.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed no later than 31 December 2028.

Signed:

Amanda Mollard
Chairperson

Date:

On behalf of Tivoli Tigers Special Olympics Gymnastics Club

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact

Jean O'Sullivan, Designated Liaison Person for Tivoli Tigers
17th September 2026
087 6873312