



Cork Women's & Schoolgirls Soccer League

Child Welfare and Safeguarding Policy

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POLICY STATEMENT

Why do we need a Policy?

The CWSSL Child Welfare and Safeguarding Policy (the “Policy”) aims to set out guidelines and procedures to assist those working with Children within the game and where appropriate those working with Vulnerable Persons. It is the responsibility of all adults involved in football to actively promote best practice standards whilst being ever vigilant and aware of their responsibilities. This policy has been formulated in line with the statutory requirements of the Children First Act 2015, the guidance from the Children First National Guidance of the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 to 2016 –

Who is the Policy aimed at?

The Policy is aimed at all those working and engaged in football activities in Clubs affiliated to the CWSSL

The CWSSL is committed to following the principles and practice guidelines contained in the Policy by:

- Recognising that the safety, protection and welfare of Children and Vulnerable Persons is of paramount importance
- Obliging all persons engaging with Children and Vulnerable Persons to be Garda vetted
- Ensuring Clubs and CWSSL appoint a Club/League Children’s Officer and Designated Liaison Persons
- Providing a clear pathway for the investigation of complaints and appropriate disciplinary procedures

The underlying principles of the Policy

1. Safe Environment

The CWSSL is committed to providing a safe environment for all children who participate in its activities. The safety and welfare of Children and Vulnerable Persons is of paramount importance and they must feel safe in their surroundings. Unhealthy competitive demands should not be placed too early as this could result in excessive levels of pressure and as a consequence, high levels of dropout from the sport.

2. The Needs of the Child and Vulnerable Person

A balanced approach to competition can make a significant contribution to the development of Children and Vulnerable Persons, while at the same time providing fun, enjoyment and satisfaction. Participants should put the welfare of the child first and competitive standards second. A Child-centred approach will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.

3. Integrity and Respect

Adults interacting with Children and Vulnerable persons in the CWSSL should do so with integrity and respect. All adult actions in football should be guided by what is in the best interests of the Child or Vulnerable Person and in the context of quality and open working relationships. Abuse of any kind is unacceptable within the CWSSL.

4. Equality

All Children and Vulnerable Persons should be treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of age, ability, gender, religious, social, or ethnic background or political persuasion. The provisions of equality legislation apply to all involved in football.

5. Fair Play

Fair Play is the guiding principle of the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport. It states that "All Children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play

CHILDREN FIRST ACT 2015: STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

In line with our statutory obligations the CWSSL:

- Carries out a Risk Assessment examining all aspects of our activities from a safeguarding perspective to establish where there are any practices or features of the service that have the potential to put children at risk which is regularly reviewed and updated if necessary
- Has a Child Safeguarding Statement which is distributed to affiliated clubs and is on our website and by request from Clubs and parents and is reviewed every two year and updated if necessary
- Appoints a Relevant Person to be the first point of contact in respect of Child Safeguarding

CHILD WELFARE and SAFEGUARDING ROLES

The CWSSL have a Children's Officer. Their name and contact details are published on the CWSSL website

The role and responsibility of the League Children's Officer are:

- Be familiar with the CWSSL Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy, Complaints and Disciplinary procedures, Social Media Policy and any other relevant guidelines
- Implement Child centred policies and procedures within the League
- Ensure safe recruitment procedures are in place
- Have completed the Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement
- Promotion of Child Safeguarding Statement and be the first point of call for it
- Ensure that League members are adequately trained and adhere to the Child Welfare and Safeguarding Policy
- Ensure that there are accurate and up to date records of coaches and volunteers training and Garda Vetting Clearance
- Monitor movement and drop out of players and volunteers.
- Handle any complaints received regarding poor practise.

The Children's Officers does not have the responsibility of investigating or validating Child protection concerns within the League and have no counselling or therapeutic role. This responsibility lies with the Gardaí, Tusla or the HSE.

The CWSSL Chair is the Designated Liaison Person. Their name and contact details are published on the CWSSL website

The role and responsibility of the Leagues Designated Liaison Person are:

- responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of Children.
- responsible for reporting allegations or suspicions of Child abuse to Tusla and/or An Garda Síochana,
- Have knowledge of the Code of Ethics, and statutory requirements
- Have a knowledge of categories and indicators of abuse

- Be familiar with and able to carry out reporting procedures using the correct forms
- Communicate with parents and/or agencies as appropriate
- Assist with the ongoing development and implementation of Child protection training needs
- Be aware of local contacts and services in relation to Child protection, i.e. principal and duty social workers and their contacts.
- To inform duty social worker in Tusla – Child and Family agency and/ or An Garda Síochána of relevant concerns about individual Children, using the Reporting Form, keep a copy of this form and ensure acknowledgement of receipt of this form.
- Reporting poor practise to their relevant governing body having ensured that any concerns regarding Child protection issues have been reported to the relevant Statutory Authority.
- Advise committee members on issues of confidentiality, record keeping and data protection.

Designated Liaison Persons do not have the responsibility of investigating or validating Child protection concerns within the Club/League and have no counselling or therapeutic role. This responsibility lies with the Gardai, Tusla or the HSE.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

The CWSSL shall treat all concerns reported under the Policy in a serious manner and in line with the following principles.

1. Members of the CWSSL who have reasonable grounds for concerns that a Child or Vulnerable Person may have been, is being, or is at risk or being abused or neglected are advised, to immediately inform the relevant Designated Liaison Person of their Affiliated Member body. If this is not possible the FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding Manager should be informed. The priority in all cases is the safety and wellbeing of the Child. The Statutory Authorities should also be advised where appropriate and all necessary steps taken to protect the Child.
2. The Designated Liaison Person should record all concerns or allegations brought to his or her attention.
3. If, as a Designated Liaison Person, you decided not to report a concern to Tusla, the following steps should be taken;
 - The reasons for not reporting should be recorded
 - Any actions taken as a result of the concern should be recorded
 - The volunteer who raised the concern should be given a clear written explanation of the reasons why the concern is not being reported to Tusla
 - The volunteer should be advised that if they remain concerned about the situation, they are free to make a report to Tusla or An Garda Siochana.
 - If there are concerns about a Child but the Designated Liaison Person is unsure if it should be reported to Tusla, it may be useful to contact Tusla to informally discuss the concern. This provides an opportunity to discuss the query in general and to decide whether a formal report of the concern to Tusla is appropriate at this stage.
 - In the event of an emergency where a Child is believed to be in immediate danger and Tusla cannot be contacted then the Gardaí should be contacted.
 - In cases where there is deemed to be a serious risk to Children the Designated Liaison Person may issue a temporary Stand Down Order in line with the Policy.
 - Reports can be made to Tusla in person, by telephone or in writing - including by email- to the local duty service in the area where the Child lives. Detail can be found on the Tusla website (www.tusla.ie)
 - To help Tusla staff assess the reasonable concern, they need all relevant information. Observations should be accurately recorded and should include dates, times, names, locations, context and any other information that may be relevant.
 - **It is not the role of the Designated Liaison Person to investigate the circumstances of an allegation of abuse prior to informing the Statutory Authorities.** It should be ensured that all relevant information is recorded and provided to the Statutory Authorities. The reporting form can be found in Appendix 6 of the Policy.
 - Parents/carers of a Child who is a suspected victim of abuse should be advised that a report is being made unless doing so is likely to endanger the Child.
 - Reports received anonymously should be taken seriously and relevant enquiries made to establish if there is any substance to the complaint. The welfare of the Child is a priority in all cases.
 - Children who are being abused may hint that they are being Harmed and sometimes make disclosures. Disclosures should always be believed and reported to the relevant Designated Liaison Person without delay.

- Any request to keep information anonymous cannot be guaranteed.

Missing Children

If a Child is believed to be missing, efforts should be made to first establish the Child's whereabouts by contacting the parents/carers. If the Child's location cannot be established and/or the parents/carers are not available and reasonable efforts have been made to contact them the matter should be reported to the Gardaí urgently.

Protection from civil liability for persons reporting concerns of child abuse in good faith:

• **(a) Section 16 (3) of the Children First Act, 2015:** If a Mandated Person furnishes any information (including a report), document or thing to the Agency pursuant to a request made under subsection (1), the furnishing of that information, document or thing **shall not give rise to any civil liability** in contract, tort or otherwise and nor shall the information, document or thing be admissible as evidence against that person in any civil or criminal proceedings.

How Reports shall be managed

- (a) Once a report is received it shall be reviewed by the Designated Liaison Person. The Designated Liaison Person shall determine if an enquiry is required and the nature and extent of enquiries and/or reports to be made to the relevant Authorities following the above information.
- (b) If the report is not reported to the relevant Authorities but the Designated Liaison Person feels a breach of this Policy has occurred then the matter may be delegated to the Club Children's Officer.
- (c) Any enquiry is not to proceed if a Statutory Investigation is under way. Once any Statutory Investigation is completed then the Designated Liaison Person shall follow the above step.
- (d) It is a matter for the Designated Liaison Person and Children's Officer to determine if a report falls under the remit of the Policy.

False/Malicious Allegations

False or malicious allegations are deemed to be a serious breach of the Policy and the CWSSL Rules. This may result in disciplinary action been taken and may constitute an offence under relevant legislation.

STAND DOWN ORDERS

The Stand Down Order may be issued to an individual directly by the CWSSL itself or by an Affiliated Club. A Stand Down Order is an order made for the immediate protection and safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Persons and is not a determination of wrongdoing by any individual.

CWSSL will immediately notify the FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding Manager of any Stand Down Order issued.

CWSSL will be guided by the FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding Manager and the FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding Policy Section 7 in the case of all Stand Down Orders

Disciplinary Action

If, following an investigation, a person is found to have committed an offence in relation to Child protection and welfare they shall be subject to disciplinary action. Such disciplinary action may be at affiliated club level if appropriate or submitted to the CWSSL committee in accordance with the below procedure. Disciplinary action by the CWSSL may proceed notwithstanding any action by Statutory Authorities, however the CWSSL reserve the right to liaise with the Statutory Authorities in respect of any action and to take instruction from them in respect of same. Any delay in the initiating of disciplinary charges at the request of Statutory Authorities shall not prejudice later disciplinary action.

It should be noted that any action taken by the CWSSL under the Policy is under football rules and policy and not indicative of any criminal or civil liability

GARDA VETTING

Garda vetting must be completed prior to the commencement of any position for those who will be working with Children and/or Vulnerable Persons in any capacity. This is a Statutory requirement under the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 to 2016. The Act creates offences and penalties for persons who fail to comply with its provisions. Garda vetting is not a substitute for safe recruitment but provides another element in determining a person's suitability to work with Children or Vulnerable Persons.

The CWSSL recommends that Affiliated clubs **do not** solely rely upon vetting checks but should also seek to determine an individual's suitability for a position through normal recruitment processes including interviews and reference checks.

10.2. CWSSL Vetting Obligations:

- (a) All those engaging with persons under the age of 18 and Vulnerable Persons shall be Garda Vetted.
- (b) All Children's Officers, Designated Liaison Person, Chairpersons and Secretaries of each Affiliated Club involved with teams that are competing in any age group up to and including Under 18's and Vulnerable Persons shall be Garda Vetted.
- (c) All coaches or those involved with the management of any team that are competing in any age group up to and including Under 18 or have Vulnerable Persons on their team shall be Garda Vetted.
- (d) Any other person volunteering with Children or Vulnerable Persons in any capacity on behalf of the CWSSL or an Affiliated Club shall be Garda Vetted.
- (f) Affiliated Clubs shall not accept confirmation of the Garda vetting status of any individual prior to confirmation being received by the individual from the FAI that the Garda vetting of the individual is in order, which the individual will receive in the form of written correspondence. It is the responsibility of each Club, who engage individuals to ensure that they have received a copy of a completed vetting application letter issued by the FAI from the individual. No letter other than that issued by the FAI can be accepted.

Garda Vetting forms can be found on the FAI website The relevant application forms can be found on the website www.fai.ie/domestic/safeguarding/garda-vetting. If the applicant is between the ages 16-17 the NVB3 Parent/Guardian form will also need to be completed and attached to the application form. When the applicant has obtained the relevant application form the below steps should be followed. Please note all forms received must be dated within 5 months of submission or they will be returned to the applicant. Incomplete forms or forms with errors on them will also be returned and may delay applications.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTION BETWEEN ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Conduct and Behaviour towards Children

- (a) All adults involved in football have an important role to play in promoting good practice. Their first priority has to be the Children's welfare, safety and enjoyment of the game.
- (b) Adults should be aware of the emotional, physical and personal needs of Children and should ensure that Children are treated with integrity and respect.
- (c) The trust implicit in adult Child relationships in sport places a duty of care on all adults, voluntary or professional to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the Child while engaged in football.
- (d) Adults have a crucial leadership role to play and contribute to the creation of a positive sporting environment for Children. This allows the Child to develop and express themselves in an open and secure way.
- (e) The principles referred to in Section 1 of this Policy should always be emphasised in football and Children should be given clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.
- (f) The importance of participation for each Child, best effort and enjoyment rather than winning should be stressed. All Children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner and every Child, irrespective of ability, should be involved in football in an integrated and inclusive way where possible.
- (g) In particular all adult-Child relationships in football should be:
 - open, positive and encouraging;
 - defined by a mutually agreed set of goals and commitments;
 - respectful of the creativity and autonomy of Children;
 - carried out in a context where Children are protected and where their rights are promoted;
 - free from any abuse or any threat of such abuse;
 - respectful of the needs and developmental stage of the Child;
 - aimed at the promotion of enjoyment and individual progress;
 - in accordance with CWSSL policies and codes;
 - respectful but not unquestioning of authority;
 - aware that Children with disabilities or additional needs may be more vulnerable.

General Supervision of Children

It is important to create a safe and enjoyable environment in which to play and train and to ensure any risks in relation to premises, training facilities and equipment are minimised with the implementation of appropriate safety rules. Children need to be supervised at all times as the likelihood of accidents happening increases when adequate supervision is not in place.

In particular the following should be adhered to;

- (a) Ensure adequate Adult: Child ratios.
- (b) There should be at least one adult of each gender with mixed parties.
- (c) Children should be supervised at all times.

- (d) Adults should avoid being left alone with Children. Clearly state times for start and finish of training and/or competitions. If late collections occur, participants should remain in pairs until all players have left.
- (e) If a coach/manager needs to talk separately to a player this should be done in an open environment, in view of others.
- (f) Respect the privacy of Children while changing, coaches/managers may only need to enter changing rooms where the Participants are very young or require special assistance. When necessary, Participants should supervise in pairs or seek assistance, it is the safety and welfare of the Participants that is of paramount importance.
- (g) If a Child suffers an injury or accident the parents/guardians should be informed and necessary reports completed.
- (h) Activities being undertaken should be suitable for the ability, age, and experience of the participants.
- (i) Equipment and facilities should meet the highest possible standards and be appropriate to the maturity of the participants.
- (j) All FAI Goalpost Safety Guidelines must strictly be adhered to and enforced.
- (k) Where protective equipment is deemed necessary it should be used.
- (l) First Aid should be available for all training sessions and matches.

Transport of Children

- (a) Children being transported should have the express permission of parents/guardians to do so.
- (b) Appropriate insurance should be in place by the transporter and duties conducted in accordance with relevant legislation including the use of seat belts.
- (c) Only the permitted number of passengers should be allowed in specific transport.
- (d) Clear itineraries for transport arrangements including collection and drop off details and contact details for the appropriate adults in charge should be provided.
- (e) Personnel shall not allow themselves be alone with any one Child when assisting with transport arrangements.
- (f) The use of private cars may be necessary from time to time but where possible this should be avoided.
- (g) Parents/guardians have a responsibility to ensure that they are fully aware of any transport arrangements and that they are happy with them.
- (h) Children should be collected promptly and it is a matter for parents/guardians to make any necessary arrangements.
- (i) In the event that a parent/guardian is late for collection or drop off immediate contact should be made with the contact person involved.
- (j) In the event a Child is late being collected efforts should be made to contact the parent/guardian to make whatever other appropriate arrangements can be made.
- (k) It is a matter for parents/guardians to arrange transport to events for Children unless specific arrangements are made.
- (l) If a private arrangement is made between parents/guardians they should be aware that there are extra responsibilities placed on persons who transport players to events.

Overnight and away trips

All CWSSL volunteers, and Affiliated Clubs have a responsibility to ensure the safety of the players with whom they work as far as possible within the limits of their control. There are additional responsibilities placed on adults accompanying teams in relation to the organisation of away trips and overnights.

The following general guidelines should be followed:

- (a) Trips away will be covered within the Leagues Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement
- (b) All adults who travel on away trips with Children should be carefully chosen and appropriately vetted.
- (c) Written permission of parents/guardians shall be required for all overnight trips. Parents/Guardians should complete the Parent/Guardian Medical Consent Form disclosing any medical conditions or special needs of their Child/Children.
- (d) A meeting with parents and Participants is useful to communicate travel times, competition details, other activities, gear requirements, medical requirements, special dietary needs and any other necessary details. Ground rules and behavioural expectations can also be discussed.
- (e) Participants should sign a behaviour agreement.
- (f) Any group socialisation should take place in communal areas (i.e. no group gatherings in bedrooms at all).
- (g) Alcoholic drink, smoking and other illegal substances/activities shall be forbidden and adults are expected to act as appropriate role models in this respect.
- (h) Lights out times should be enforced.
- (i) The roles and responsibilities of adults participating in away trips should be clearly defined.
- (j) The organising body should appoint a team manager/head of delegation for all away trips having overall responsibility for the Children's wellbeing, behaviour and sleeping arrangements. Children should be informed at the outset to whom they can report any concerns they might have and shall be clearly encouraged to tell anybody if they should have a concern.
- (k) On away trips, coaches should be accountable to the appointed team manager/head of delegation in all non-performance related matters.
- (l) Where there are mixed teams there should be at least one female in the management/coaching structure.
- (m) The team manager/head of delegation should submit a report as soon as possible after the trip recording any incidents/accidents or simply recording that no incidents arose.
- (n) Adults should never share a room with a Child. Where the presence of an adult is absolutely necessary due to accommodation arrangements this should be agreed with parents/guardians in advance and arrangements made to ensure there should be an agreed number of children in the room with the adult.
- (o) If Children are sharing rooms, it should be with those of the same age and sex, this should be agreed with parents/guardians in advance and should be strictly supervised
- (p) Adults should respect Children's privacy and knock before entering rooms.
- (q) Adults should avoid being alone with one Child. If talking separately, do so in an open environment, in view of others.
- (r) Best practice is to ensure two coaches are on site for each team. Adequate Child ratios should always be maintained (this can depend on the ages of the Children, the nature of the activity involved or any special needs of the group) Sport Ireland provide a general guidance of 1:8 for under 12 years of ages and 1:10 for over 12 years of age. Ensure at least one adult of each gender with mixed parties and that there is adequate supervision at all times.
- (s) Ensure that there is adequate insurance cover for the trip and that any incidents are correctly reported.
- (t) Parents/Guardians should be informed as soon as possible if their Child suffers any significant injury, accident or becomes unwell.

Changing facilities

- (a) Where possible Children should have sole use of changing facilities and all efforts should be made to try and secure separate facilities for Children. As many Children are self-conscious about changing in front of others it may become more suitable to ask Children to change at home before and after activities. A common-sense approach should be adopted as to what the parents/guardians may prefer.
- (b) Where facilities are being used by Children proper supervision is required and careful consideration should be given to who should be supervising.
- (c) Those persons should be suitable for such supervision, being vetted and recruited in line with the safe procedures outlined in this Policy.
- (d) Adults in such supervisory roles should balance the need of supervision with respect of the privacy of Children at all times.
- (e) It is recommended that more than one adult supervise at any time and supervisors are of the same gender as the Children involved.
- (f) Contact between other adults and Children should be avoided by careful timing of the changing facilities and adequate notices being put in place. Where mixed changing facilities with adults and Children are unavoidable proper adult supervision is even more important.
- (g) Parents may be of valuable assistance but should also be suitable for undertaking this responsibility.

Accidents/Incidents

- (a) Any accidents or incidents involving Children should be reported in full to the Children's Officer by completion of the appropriate report.
- (b) If a Child is referred for medical treatment contact should immediately be made with the Child's parent/guardian and the relevant consent form located for medical treatment.
- (c) The Child should be accompanied by the person in charge of the Child, if for any reason enquiries should be made regarding any diagnosis or treatment.
- (d) An incident report form should be completed in all cases whether medical treatment is required or not.
- (e) In all cases insurers should be notified of the incident and the report form submitted for their records

RECORD KEEPING

All information gathered by the CWSSL shall be stored in a secure location with access only by the Designated Liaison Officer or Children's Officer.

All records shall be maintained in an accurate manner so as to ensure the protection of children and all information shall be recorded.

Records shall be presented so that clear information may be accessed by the Statutory Authorities if necessary.

Child Welfare and Safeguarding casework such a complaint or investigation will be held for 5 years from when the casework began plus one year.



Cork Women's & Schoolgirls Soccer League

Recruitment Policy

Cork Women's and Schoolgirls Soccer League existence depends on the voluntary effort of all its volunteers. Volunteer are the driving force of the League and without volunteers the league would not be in a position to operate effectively. It is important that the League provides a health environment for volunteers and recruits the right people for the right area. The following recruitment steps will help to protect children and assist in playing volunteer in a position to which they are suited and supported:

Role	The League will provide a role description for all new volunteer positions that will include a set of tasks. The volunteer role will be publicised through the Leagues communication channels
Application Form	An application form will be provided for all applicants. This ensure the relevant information is collected and that all interested parties are treated fairly.
Interview	The applicants will be interviewed with at least two members of the committee
Reference	Every applicant will provide at least two references who will be contacted before the commencement of any role
Garda Vetting	Everyone working with children or vulnerable adults will require Garda Vetting before starting their role
Induction	Every new volunteer will receive an induction to ensure that they are familiar with their surroundings, comfortable and made aware of the League policies and procedures.
Training	All volunteers will have the necessary qualifications for the roles. If additional training is needed it will be provided if and when necessary
Volunteers	All volunteers will adhere to the Leagues and the FAI's rules and code of conduct.



Cork Women's & Schoolgirls Soccer League

Social Media Policy

CWSSL understands that the use of Social Media helps promote football if used appropriately. The Policy outlines the standards the CWSSL requires when using Social Media.

Who is covered by the Policy?

The Policy is applicable to all individuals volunteering within the game of football in the CWSSL and affiliated clubs

The scope of the Policy

The Policy is established to ensure the interests of Children and Vulnerable Persons participating in football is of paramount importance.

The Policy is also to ensure all Affiliated Clubs are aware of the negative impact social media can have on our all members and give guidance on how to avoid them.

Breach of the Policy may be dealt with using the disciplinary procedures which apply to each organisation and, in serious cases, may be treated as gross misconduct leading to a Stand Down Order, ban from membership of the CWSSL and / or dismissal.

Responsibility for implementation of the Policy

The CWSSL and each Affiliated Club has overall responsibility for the effective operation of the Policy.

Each individual is responsible for their own compliance with the Policy and for ensuring that it is consistently applied.

Personal use of Social Media sites

The CWSSL respects your right to use Social Media for personal use however it is important to be mindful of the impact Social Media can have on others. The following conditions must be met for personal use to continue:

1. You are responsible for your conduct when using any form of Social Media.
2. Your personal views should not conflict with your existing role in football. You should be aware that what you publish will be public for many years.
3. Be mindful of the impact your contribution might make to people's perceptions of the CWSSL and its Affiliated Clubs

Using Social Media

1. When making use of any Social Media platform, you must read and comply with its terms of use.
2. Do not upload, post or forward any content belonging to a third party unless you have that third party's consent. For example, don't discuss colleagues, competitors, coaches and / or players without their prior approval.
3. Avoid publishing your contact details where they can be accessed and used widely by people you did not intend to see them, and never publish anyone else's contact details.
4. Do not engage with irate players, parents or coaches on a public forum. Organise a meeting to allow all parties to discuss possible outcomes.
5. If you are a manager, coach, club official or referee you should not:
 1. accept any player or referee who is under 18 as a friend on your personal Social Media page.
 2. communicate with any person under 18 through Social Media, text message, phone or email.
6. All communications concerning under 18's should be made through parents / guardians. It is important to ensure all communications relate to specific club matters e.g. fixtures, training etc.
7. Any inappropriate use, such as bullying, is strictly prohibited and should be reported to the Children's Officer within CWSSL.
8. Misuse of Social Media, in certain circumstances, constitute a criminal offence and suspicious behaviour towards under 18's will be reported to the Statutory Authorities.

Glossary

- Affiliated Clubs of the League means all Clubs who have affiliated directly to the CWSSL or to their respective governing body.
- Committee means the CWSSL Committee
- Children, Child means a person under the age of 18 other than a person who is or has been married.
- Children First Act (2015) mean the Act for the purposes of making further and better provision for the care and protection of Children and for those purposes to require that preparation, by certain providers of services to Children, of Child Safeguarding Statements; to require certain persons to make reports to the Child and Family Agency in respect of Children in certain circumstances; to require certain persons to assist the Child and Family Agency in certain circumstances.
- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 mean the guidance published by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in 2017 which includes information on the statutory obligations for those individuals and Organisations under the Act. It also sets out the best practice procedures that should be in place for all Organisations providing services to Children.
- Child Risk Assessment mean a Risk Assessment which is carried out to identify whether a Child could be harmed whilst using the service.
- Child Safeguarding Statement means a statement that outlines the policies and procedures which are in place to manage the risks that have been identified through the Risk Assessment.
- League Children's Officer means the person who the Child welfare day to day functions are delegated to. Their remit shall be a key component of the Safeguarding Statement and they shall be the Relevant Person for the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport means the Code which was developed by the Irish Sports Council (Sport Ireland) and the Sports Council for Northern Ireland. The Code has been adopted and implemented by governing bodies of sports, clubs, local sports partnerships and community/voluntary groups.
- Designated Liaison Person means the person who is responsible for ensuring that reporting procedures within the League are followed so that Child welfare and protection concerns are referred promptly to Statutory Authorities and will also liaise with outside agencies. Additionally, they will be a resource person to any employee or volunteer who has Child protection concerns.
- Deputy Designated Liaison Person means the person who carries out the duties of the Designated Liaison Person when the Designated Liaison Person is unavailable.
- Harm means, as defined in the Children First Act 2015, in relation to a Child
 - (a) 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,
 - (b) 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."
- Liaison Person means the registered person(s) with The National Vetting Bureau for the purposes of Garda Vetting on behalf of the Football Association of Ireland
- Mandated Persons means, as set out in the Children's First Act 2015, persons who have contact with Children and/or families and who, because of their qualifications, training and/or employment role, are in a key position to help protect Children from harm.
- National Body mean the Colleges Football Association of Ireland (CCWSSL), Defence Forces Football Association (DFFA), Football Association of Ireland Schools (CWSSLs), Football For

All (FFA), Irish Soccer Referees Society (ISRS), Irish Universities Football Union (IUFU), Junior Council and Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland (SCWSSL).

- Organisation means all National Bodies, Provincial Associations, Leagues and Clubs who have affiliated directly to the CWSSL and provide a service to Children.
- Participants means a Player, Official, Manager, Match Official, Match Agent, Intermediary and all such persons who are from time to time participating in any activity sanctioned by The Association or by any Affiliated Club.
- Provincial Associations mean the Connaught Football Association (CFA), Leinster Football Association (LFA), Munster Football Association (MFA) and Ulster Football Association (UFA).
- Relevant Person- means the person who is appointed as the Children's Officer within the League, to be the first point of contact in respect of an Organisation's Child Safeguarding Statement.
- Service Level Agreement- Mean the agreement in place between the CWSSL and its Affiliate Members for the purpose of completing Garda vetting applications.
- Stand Down Order means an order which is issued to any person who is the subject of a complaint or inquiry by a Statutory Authority in relation to any Child Welfare or Vulnerable Person concern. A Stand Down Order is issued to an individual to immediately refrain from particular activities within the CWSSL for a specified or indefinite period pending the outcome of an enquiry or investigation in accordance with CWSSL Rules.
- Statutory Authorities means those state bodies which promote the welfare and protection of Children and Vulnerable Persons and have a legal responsibility for the investigation and/or validation of suspected abuse, and these include but are not limited to An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and the Child and Family Agency (Tusla).
- The Policy means this CWSSL Child Welfare and Safeguarding Policy.
- Vulnerable Person means a person, other than a Child, who—
 - (a) has a mental illness or dementia
 - (b) has an intellectual disability,
 - (d) has a physical or sensory disability,
 - Which is of such a nature or degree:
 1. As to restrict the capacity of the person to guard himself or herself against harm by another person, or
 2. That results in the person requiring assistance with the activities of daily living including dressing, eating, walking, washing and bathing.

Please note- within the Policy where Child/ Children is referred to there may be occasions when it may also be applicable to Vulnerable Persons.