

Irish Mountain Running Association Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1 – NGB / club information

Club Name: Irish Mountain Running Association [IMRA] is affiliated to Athletics Ireland and provides various sporting activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation in hill or mountain running races, development workshops and the opportunity to represent Ireland in international mountain running races. **Organised events:** IMRA's annual race calendar includes a range of shorter race routes held on the same day as their main race events. These shorter race routes are aimed at the younger runners. There are occasional workshops held for young people aiming at developing their skills for this discipline of running. These workshops are typically one day events and do not involve overnight trips. For the international race events, these involve trips abroad as part of the Irish Team Squad.

IMRA is a voluntary led organisation that provides its members with opportunities to participate in hill or mountain running and racing. The minimum age to take part in an IMRA race is 6 years. For children and young people, the age classes for the races go from U10, U14, U16 to U18.

Club Name: Irish Mountain Running Association [IMRA]

- Sport: **Trail, Hill and Mountain Running.**
- Location (National/Local level): **Local and National.**
- Number of members in your club: **2, 531** as of June 11th, 2020
- Activities: **Trail, Hill and Mountain Running Races**

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

IMRA is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of the Athletics Ireland (AAI) Safeguarding Policies our members 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 an age appropriate manner. 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.

Children and Young People in IMRA

IMRA supports the ethos and principles laid out above by Athletic Ireland. All IMRA events that include the participation of children and young people take these principles into account.

Section 3 - Risk Assessment

The activities of IMRA are conducted outdoors and in rural or mountainous settings. Most activities are race events as per the IMRA calendar. As such, some of the aspects of child safeguarding that would be a consideration for a club or track based setting do not apply to the activities of IMRA.

However, IMRA has reviewed all areas of potential risk of harm for children and young people. We have assessed the likelihood of the risk occurring, and have put in place the relevant policy, guidance or process documents required to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Race Events and Away Trips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Supervision issues. — Unauthorised photography & recording activities. — Lack of coaching qualification. — Behavioural Issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — All children or young people attending races or training events are under the supervision of a parent/guardian or an IMRA member or volunteer trained in child protection and garda vetted. — The use of photos taken from race events or training events for promotional uses is standard. All children and young people are given the option to opt out of the use of their photos on official IMRA social media platforms. — All coaching provided to children or young people is provided by qualified coaches, directly or under their direction. — All children and young people attending local races are under the supervision of a parent/guardian. Expected standards are set

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Lack of gender balance amongst Team Managers travelling with Team including young people — No guidance for travelling & away trips — Child or young person going missing on a race route — Child getting injured on a race route 	<p>out in advance of team members travelling to away trips. Parental or guardian consent is obtained in advance of the trip.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — All trips away for international events are gender balanced to match the make up of the teams travelling. — Except for international trips, travel to and from the race events is the responsibility of the child or young person's parent or guardian. Team Managers do not share rooms for overnight trips with Team members. All Team Managers travelling on behalf of IMRA are trained in child safeguarding measures and garda vetted. — All race routes involving children or young person up to the age category of U18 are marked and marshalled. All runners are registered before the race. The Race Director of an event ensures that all those registered are accounted for before leaving the race area. - All IMRA races have a qualified first aid team member present to attend to any potential casualties. There are also marshals out on the race route that can alert the race team to any injured runners
<p>Reporting Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures — No DLP appointed. — Concerns of abuse or harm not reported. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The IMRA website (www.imra.ie) provides full information regarding the organisation's structure & activities. Names and contact details for the committee members are listed on the website for direct contact — The Junior Affairs Officer, part of the IMRA committee, is the point of contact within IMRA for all child safeguarding concerns. Issues can also be directly raised with the National Safeguarding Officer on behalf of AAI – details below. — IMRA ensures that any IMRA member involved with children or young people for training or travel purposes has received child safeguarding training and is garda vetted.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Not clear who the child and young person should talk to or report to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The name of the current Junior Affairs Officer is listed on the website and on this policy statement.
<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors. — Inappropriate use of social media & communications by under 18’s — Inappropriate use of social media & communications with under 18’s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IMRA website highlights the nature of this racing activity. - The IMRA website has a forum for member communications. There is an official IMRA Instagram account. All posts on both platforms are moderated by the committee - All communications with young members of IMRA under the age of 18 are conducted through their parent/guardian by adult members of IMRA or in group chats including a parent/guardian.
<p>General Risk of Harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Harm not being recognised. — Harm caused by: Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child. Member to Child. — Vetting and recruitment of volunteers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training. — Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training. — IMRA ensures that any IMRA members or volunteers involved with children or young people for training or travel purposes have received child safeguarding training and are garda vetted. — All IMRA members are recruited for work with the children or young people by the committee in line with child safeguarding guidelines.

IMRA’s Junior Affairs Officer, is Miriam Maher. She can be contacted at miriam.maher@imra.ie

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 11/06/2020

Section 4 – Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice). 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.

Athletics Ireland has the following procedures in place which are adopted 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 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.

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.

Kieron Stout is the relevant person for Athletics Ireland, and he is also a mandated person as set out in the Children First Act 2015. Kieron is also the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for IMRA. Kieron can be contacted on 086 2450134.

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. IMRA 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 all committee members and volunteers working with young people have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, the Agency & members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place on our website by IMRA.


The Athletics Ireland Child Safeguarding Plan including all policies and procedures is available on request or at the following webpage for download. <https://www.athleticsireland.ie/juvenile/child-welfare>

You can also email childwelfare@athleticsireland.ie if you would like any information sent to you.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on June 12th, 2021

Signed:  Date: 12/06/20

(By the Junior Affairs Officer (Relevant Person) On behalf of IMRA)

Signed:  Date: 13/06/2020

(By the Safety Officer (Relevant Person) On behalf of IMRA)

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the Relevant Person (JAO) Miriam Maher