



# Child Safeguarding Statement

## **Section 1 – NGB Information**

Table Tennis Ireland provides Table Tennis activities and opportunities for young people through participation in clubs, regional/provincial events and through our national teams.

**NGB details:**

**Name:** Table Tennis Ireland

**Sport:** Table Tennis

**Location:** Irish Sports HQ, Sport Ireland National Campus, Snugborough Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, D15 DY62.

**Size:** 12 staff, 3 contractors, 1490 members, 21 clubs (Junior Section)

**Activities:** To develop, promote and grow the sport of Table Tennis

## **Section 2 – Principles to safeguard children from harm**

Table Tennis Ireland is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies our staff, both volunteers and employed, 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.

### **Section 3 – Risk Assessment**

Table Tennis Irelands 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 require to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified are contained in the following categories: Club and Coaching Practices; Complaints & Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications; and General Risk of Harm.

<b>Risk Identified:</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage risk identified:</b>
<b>Club and Coaching Practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of coaching qualification</li> <li>• Supervision issues</li> <li>• Unauthorised photography &amp; recording activities</li> <li>• Behavioural Issues</li> <li>• Lack of gender balance amongst coaches</li> <li>• No guidance for travelling &amp; away trips</li> <li>• Lack of adherence with misc. procedures in Safeguarding policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Club Development Handbook</li> <li>• Club Development Handbook</li> <li>• Photography &amp; Video Recording Policy, Event Photo Permission</li> <li>• Anti-Bullying Policy, Code of Conduct, Equality and Diversity Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy</li> <li>• Club Development Handbook</li> <li>• Guidelines on Hosting Young People, Overnight Stays and Away Trips policy</li> <li>• Safeguarding Policy, Safeguarding Risk Assessment, Child Safeguarding Incident Report Form</li> </ul>
<b>Complaints &amp; Discipline</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of awareness of a Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy</li> <li>• Difficulty in raising an issue by child &amp; or parent</li> <li>• Complaints not being dealt with seriously</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding Policy, Speak Up Policy, Code of Conduct, Sanction Scheme, Conflict of Interest Policy</li> <li>• Safeguarding Policy, Speak Up Policy</li> <li>• Safeguarding Policy, Speak Up Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy</li> </ul>
<b>Reporting Procedures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of knowledge of organisational &amp; statutory reporting procedures</li> <li>• Concerns of abuse or harm not reported</li> <li>• Not clear who YP should talk to or report to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding Policy, Speak Up Policy, Child Safeguarding Incident Report Form</li> <li>• Safeguarding Policy, Speak Up Policy, Child Safeguarding Incident Report Form</li> <li>• Speak Up Policy</li> </ul>

<b>Use of Facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unauthorised access to designated children's play &amp; practice areas and changing rooms, showers, toilets etc....</li> <li>• Unauthorised exit from children's areas</li> <li>• Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas.</li> <li>• Missing or found child on site.</li> <li>• Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding Policy, Code of Conduct, Guidelines on Hosting Young People</li> <li>• Safeguarding Policy, Code of Conduct, Guidelines on Hosting Young People</li> <li>• Photography &amp; Video Recording Policy, Event Photo Permission, Child Safeguarding Incident Report Form</li> <li>• Safeguarding Policy, Code of Conduct, Guidelines on Hosting Young People</li> <li>• Safeguarding Policy, Code of Conduct, Guidelines on Hosting Young People</li> </ul>
<b>Recruitment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment of inappropriate people.</li> <li>• Lack of clarity on roles.</li> <li>• Unqualified or untrained people in role.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution, Club Development Handbook, staff vetted when recruited</li> <li>• Constitution, Club Development Handbook</li> <li>• Constitution, Club Development Handbook</li> </ul>
<b>Communications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors.</li> <li>• No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members of visitors.</li> <li>• Unauthorised photography &amp; recording of activities.</li> <li>• Inappropriate use of social media &amp; communications by under 18's</li> <li>• Inappropriate use of social media &amp; communications with under 18's.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding Statement, Risk Assessment, Code of Conduct, Safeguarding Policy</li> <li>• Safeguarding Statement, Risk Assessment, Code of Conduct, Safeguarding Policy</li> <li>• Photography &amp; Video Recording Policy, Event Photo Permission, Data Protection Policy</li> <li>• Photography &amp; Video Recording Policy, Event Photo Permission, Social Media Guidelines</li> <li>• Photography &amp; Video Recording Policy, Event Photo Permission, Social Media Guidelines</li> </ul>
<b>General Risk of Harm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harm not being recognised.</li> <li>• Harm caused by: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Child to Child.</li> <li>○ Coach to Child.</li> <li>○ Volunteer to Child.</li> <li>○ Member to Child.</li> <li>○ Visitor to Child.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• General behavioural issues.</li> <li>• Issues of Bullying.</li> <li>• Vetting of staff/volunteers.</li> <li>• Issues of Online Safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding Policy, Child Safeguarding Training, Equality and Diversity Policy,</li> <li>• Safeguarding Policy, Child Safeguarding Training, Equality and Diversity Policy,</li> <li>• Code of Conduct</li> <li>• Anti-Bullying Policy</li> <li>• Garda Vetting FAQ, Access NI, Club Development Handbook</li> <li>• Social Media Guidelines</li> </ul>



The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 12/11/2024.

## **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, and the Children Order (N.I.) 1995. 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.

Table Tennis Ireland 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 NGB is ***Clair Hughes (National Safeguarding Officer)***.

## **Section 5 - Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our organisation 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 staff 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 the organisation.



This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in **November 2026** or sooner if required (must be within 24 months).

**Signed:** *C. Hughes*

**Date:** 18/11/2024

(On behalf of the Table Tennis Ireland)

**Name:** Clair Hughes

**Phone no:** 01-6251135

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact Clair Hughes ([safeguarding@tabletennisireland.ie](mailto:safeguarding@tabletennisireland.ie))