



CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT 2023

Wings Rhythmic Gymnastics Club is an affiliate of **Gymnastics Ireland** and provides sporting activities and opportunities for young people through participation in clubs, national events and our national teams. We are committed to safeguarding children at all levels of our organisation under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies and legal obligations.

All our volunteers and staff working with our young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to participate in our activities.

This statement recognises that in accordance with legislation and with the requirements of our Policies/Procedures that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that all children have a positive, developmental, and enjoyable experience of Gymnastics and when participating in our activities that they do so, as far as is practicable, in a safe and enjoyable environment where everyone is respected.

Principles to safeguard children from harm

Wings Rhythmic Gymnastics Club 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.



Risk Assessment

As per Section 11 (7) of the Children First Act 2015, we have undertaken a review of our child safeguarding statement & in conjunction with the review, we conducted a risk assessment of the potential for harm to children when they are participating in and attending our activities under the following headings: Club and Coaching Practices; Complaints & Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications/Social Media and a further heading of General Risk of Harm. Below is a list of areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

RISK IDENTIFIED	POLICY IN PLACE
Risk of harm including assault, ill treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare or sexual abuse of a child.	Child Safeguarding Policy - reporting procedures for staff & volunteers Recruitment Policy Child Safeguarding Training Policy Vetting Policy & Complaints/Disciplinary Rules and Procedures
Risk of harm of abuse when hosting an activity or an away trip	Child Safeguarding Policy - Hosting, Away Trips, Transport, Supervision & Codes of Conduct, International Travel Policy
Risk of harm of online abuse through social media	GI social media Policy
Bullying of a child	Child Safeguarding Policy - Anti-Bullying Policy & Safeguarding Training
Unauthorised photography & recording activities	Photo consent must be approved by parent/guardian
Behavioural Issues	Code of Conduct/ Safeguarding qualified staff / Complaints & Disciplinary policy
Harm not being recognised	Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training
Harm caused by: Child to Child. Coach to Child. Volunteer to Child. Member to Child. Visitor to Child	Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training
Issues of Bullying	Code of Conduct/ Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training / Complaints & Disciplinary policy
Vetting of staff/volunteers	Recruitment policy



Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy	Safeguarding Policy / Complaints & disciplinary policy
Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent	Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy
Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures	Reporting procedures/policy / Recruitment and Staffing policy/ Code of Conduct
Not clear who YP should talk to or report to	Designated CCO name and picture posted in high visibility locations around gym
No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members or visitors	Child Safeguarding Statement (will be displayed) / Code of Behaviour (will be distributed and is available upon request)

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been prepared in accordance with the legislative requirements contained in the Children First Act 2015, Children's First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), the Children (NI) Order 1995, Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice 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.

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request

The Wings Rhythmic Gymnastics Mandated Person, who has a legal obligation to report harm of children as per Children First Act 2015 is James Walsh (Club Children's Officer), email: jameswrgc@outlook.com or phone: 089-258-3293.

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been prepared in accordance with the requirements contained in the Children First Act 2015. Gymnastics Ireland is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and will be reviewed within 24 months of the date below.

Signed:



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