



Teilgin agus Amais Éireann

Pitch and Putt Ireland

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Pitch and Putt Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement

Pitch and Putt Ireland is the National Governing Body for Pitch and Putt in Ireland. Pitch and Putt Ireland provides various Pitch and Putt activities and opportunities for young people through participation in clubs, regional, provincial events and through our national events.

- **Name:** Pitch and Putt Ireland (Ryston Pitch & Putt Club)
- **Sport:** Pitch and Putt
- **Location:** National

Section 2 - Pitch and Putt Ireland is committed to safeguarding children and by working under 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 our sport, by adhering to the following principles:

1. **Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in pitch and Putt
2. **Needs of the child** - All children's Pitch and Putt 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
3. **Integrity in relationships** - Adults interacting with children in Pitch and Putt are in a position of trust and influence and they must never abuse this position of trust. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced
4. **Fair Play** - All children's Pitch and Putt 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
5. **Quality atmosphere & ethos** - Children's Pitch and Putt should be conducted in a safe, positive, and encouraging atmosphere.
6. **Competition** - Competition is an essential element of Pitch and Putt 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.
7. **Equality** - All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, social and ethnic background, or political persuasion.

Section 3 – Risk Assessment

Pitch and Putt Ireland's 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 and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Potential risk of harm to children	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document
<p>Coaching Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of coaching qualification Supervision issues Unauthorised photography & recording Behavioural Issues Lack of gender balance amongst coaches No guidance for travelling and away trips Lack of adherence with procedures in Safeguarding policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coach education policy/ Recruitment Policy Supervision policy/Coach education policy Photography and Use of Images Procedure Code of Conduct/ Safeguarding Level 1/Complaints & Disciplinary Policy Supervision Guidelines Overnight & Away trips procedure/ Child Safeguarding Training Safeguarding policy/Code of Conduct/Complaints & Disciplinary policy
<p>Complaints & Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent Complaints not being dealt with seriously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplinary, Complaints and Appeals Procedure/Communication procedure Disciplinary, Complaints and Appeals Procedure/Communication procedure Disciplinary, Complaints and Appeals Procedure
<p>Reporting Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures No DLP appointed Concerns of abuse or harm not reported Not clear who Young Person should talk to or report to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy/ Codes of Conduct Reporting procedures/policy Reporting procedures/policy/ Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 Post the names of Children's Officers, Designated Liaison Person
<p>Use of Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. Unauthorised exit from children's areas Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas Missing or found child on site Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Supervision Guidelines General Supervision Guidelines Photography and Use of Images Procedure Safeguarding policy Safeguarding policy
<p>Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment of inappropriate people Lack of clarity on roles Unqualified or untrained people in role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment & Selection Policy/NVB Recruitment & Selection Policy Recruitment & Selection Policy
<p>Communications & Social Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors Unauthorised photography & recording of activities Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18's Inappropriate use of social media and communications with under 18's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement/Recruitment & Selection Policy Child Safeguarding Statement – display/Code of Behaviour – distribute Photography and Use of Images Procedure Codes of conduct/Guidelines for Conduct Codes of conduct / Guidelines for Conduct

<p>General Risk of Harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm not being recognised • Harm caused by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • child to child • coach to child • volunteer to child • member to child • visitor to child • General behavioral issues • Issues of Bullying • Vetting of Staff/Volunteers • Issues of Online Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding policy/Safeguarding Training • Safeguarding policy/Safeguarding Training/Anti-Bullying policy/Disciplinary policy • Codes of conduct/Guidelines for Conduct • Anti-Bullying Policy • Recruitment/Vetting Policy • Social Media guidance
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The risk assessment was undertaken on: 11/07/2024

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. 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.

Pitch and Putt Ireland has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

Pitch and Putt 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 organisation
- 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 the relevant Statutory Authorities.

The Mandated Person/Designated Liaison Person for Pitch and Putt Ireland is Dwyne Hill

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Pitch and Putt Ireland 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 volunteers and Staff 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 is displayed in a prominent place by Pitch and Putt Ireland

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by **July 2026**.

Signed: 
Name: Mark Keohane
Pitch and Putt Ireland President
Phone no: 01-6251110

Signed: 
Name: Dwyne Hill
Pitch and Putt Ireland Designated Liaison Person
Phone no: 01-6251110

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the Pitch and Putt Ireland Office on 01-6251110 or email