Safeguarding Statement for Adults at Risk of Abuse

Killester Special Olympics Basketball programme provides basketball activities and opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities through participation in club, regional and national events.

Killester Special Olympics Basketball programme is committed to working under the guidance of Special Olympics Ireland Safeguarding Policies to create a safe environment for athletes to grow and develop within sport. The following set of principles should be adhered to:

- **Person-Centred**- All athletes sport experiences should be guided by what is best for them. This means that our volunteers and staff should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of our athletes.
- **Empowerment and Integrity in Relationships** - Adults interacting with our athletes are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that athletes are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of athletes is enhanced. Athletes are supported to have choice and control over their life and develop their skills and resources.
- **Fair Play** - All 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. Our Code of Conduct, signed by all, underpins this.
- **Quality Atmosphere & Ethos** - Sport should be conducted in a safe, positive and fun environment; and in the spirit of fair play.
- **Competition** - Competition is an essential element of sport and should be encouraged in a manner, appropriate to the athlete's ability. An athlete-centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.
- **Human Rights** - All athletes should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion. For an adult with an intellectual disability this includes a right to dignity, choice and privacy.
- **Awareness of Intellectual Disability** – All Special Olympics athletes have an intellectual disability and we are committed to ensuring our volunteers and staff understand that this can create an additional vulnerability and that we may need to support additional needs.

Abuse of an adult at risk may be a single act or repeated over a period of time and may be one form or multiple forms of abuse. The lack of appropriate action can also be a form of abuse. Abuse may occur in a relationship where there is an expectation of trust and can be perpetrated by a person who acts in breach of that trust. Abuse can also be perpetrated by people who have influence over the lives of vulnerable persons, whether they are formal or informal carers or family members or others.

It is essential that there is a collaborative approach to safeguarding through family members, sports organisations, services, schools and statutory authorities. This includes open and transparent processes and practices that include adults at risk in decision-making and discussions that affect them. A person-centred approach should always be taken.
Killester Special Olympics Basketball programme needs people to report any safeguarding concerns; if you have a concern about abuse, neglect or coercion. The message from Safeguarding Ireland is to – 'Call out Abuse' and report it. Safeguarding is everyone's business and a zero tolerance approach should be taken – We ask staff and volunteers to Recognise, Respond and Report abuse without delay.
People with disabilities and older people may be particularly vulnerable due to:

- • diminished social skills
- • dependence on others for personal and intimate care
- • capacity to report
- • sensory difficulties
- • isolation
- • power differentials

Physical abuse includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions.
Sexual abuse includes rape and sexual assault, or sexual acts to which the vulnerable person has not consented, or could not consent, or into which he or she was compelled to consent.
Psychological abuse includes emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.
Financial or material abuse includes theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
Neglect and acts of omission includes ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
Discriminatory abuse includes ageism, racism, sexism, that based on a person's disability, and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment.
Institutional abuse may occur within residential care and acute settings including nursing homes, acute hospitals and any other in-patient settings, and may involve poor standards of care, rigid routines and inadequate responses to complex need.

It is critical that the rights of vulnerable persons to lead as normal a life as possible is recognised, in particular deprivation of the following rights may constitute abuse:

- • Liberty
- • Privacy
- • Respect and dignity
- • Freedom to choose
- • Opportunities to fulfil personal aspirations and realise potential in their daily lives
- • Opportunity to live safely without fear of abuse in any form
- • Respect for possessions

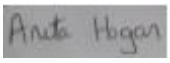
It is important that adults who are vulnerable are shown the same respect and dignity as any other adult; and have access to information they need in a manner in which they can understand, to make informed choices.
Killester Special Olympics Basketball programme has the following procedures in place as part of our safeguarding policies:

- • Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by volunteers against an athlete availing of our activities.
- • Procedures for the safe recruitment of volunteers to work with athletes in our activities.
- • Procedures for access to safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- • Procedure for reporting concerns of abuse to adults at risk to Statutory Authorities.
- • Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons with safeguarding responsibilities

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.
Killester Special Olympics Basketball programme is committed to the implementation of this Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep athletes safe from harm while availing of our activities.
Please note the following:

- • That all volunteers have been notified of this statement.
- • This statement is available to parents/guardians, volunteers and members of the public on request.
- • This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by Killester Special Olympics Basketball programme, namely on the programme website, at killesterspecialolympics.com

This Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on a regular basis.



Signature of Chairperson

12/11/24