

# Racquetball Association of Ireland (RAI)

## Child Safeguarding Statement

### Section 1

The Racquetball Association of Ireland provides various sporting activities and opportunities for young people through participation in clubs, regional/provincial events and through our national teams.

NGB Details:

- Name: Racquetball Association of Ireland
- Affiliated clubs: 30 clubs
- Website: [www.racquetball.ie](http://www.racquetball.ie)
- Activities: National programmes & events including representative panels, youth coaching & competitions, squad camps and participation programmes in schools & clubs

### Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

The Racquetball Association of 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 – 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.

The Racquetball Association of 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.

### **Section 4 – Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. The Racquetball Association of 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 staff have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available generally as it is on our website.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on October 2022

Signed: *Mark Murphy*

Date: September 16th 2021

Name: Mark Murphy

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact [info@racquetball.ie](mailto:info@racquetball.ie)