

## Child Safeguarding Statement 2023 - 2024

### 1. Name of service being provided:

Ból Chumann na hÉireann

### 2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

Ból Chumann na hÉireann recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being, and will work in partnership with parents/guardians to do this. All volunteers have a responsibility to safeguard children through promoting their welfare, health and development in a safe and caring environment that supports their best interests and prevents abuse.

### 3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Lack of coaching qualification	Coach education policy/Recruitment policy
2	Unauthorised photography & recording activities	Photography & Use of Images policy
3	Behavioural Issues	Code of Conduct/Safeguarding 1-2-3 Complaints & Disciplinary policy
4	Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	Diversity Policy/Supervision policy
5	Lack of adherence with miscellaneous procedures in Safeguarding policy	Safeguarding Policy/Complaints & disciplinary policy

### 4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* 2017, Ból Chumann na hÉireann Executive Committee has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.



1. The Designated Liaison Person and National Childrens Officer of Ból Chumann na hÉireann (DLP) is Caroline Smith Safeguarding and Child Protection Officer [caroline63smith@gmail.com](mailto:caroline63smith@gmail.com) 0877485704
2. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person of Ból Chumann na hÉireann is (Deputy DLP)  
Michael Hurley [mickbhurley@gmail.com](mailto:mickbhurley@gmail.com) 0876485728
3. The Mandated Persons of Ból Chumann na hÉireann are  
Michael Bohane [bohane113@yahoo.ie](mailto:bohane113@yahoo.ie) 0864046276  
Eibhlis Murphy [eibhlismurphy@hotmail.com](mailto:eibhlismurphy@hotmail.com) 0879515686

## 5. Child Protection and Welfare Best Practice

The Board recognises that child protection and Welfare considerations permeate all aspects of community life and must be reflected in all of the Associations Policies, Procedures, Practices and Activities in its policies, procedures, practices and activities. Ból Chumann na hÉireann will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare.

Ból Chumann na hÉireann will:

- Recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance regardless of all other considerations
- Fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children
- Fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters
- Adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect Volunteers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect
- Develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the services of Ból Chumann Na hÉireann
- Fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters

## 6. The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to the selection of volunteers to work with children, Ból Chumann na hÉireann adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting. All volunteers who work directly with children are vetted in advance of starting their work in Ból Chumann na hÉireann.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to volunteers in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) Ból Chumann na hÉireann will:



- Provide each volunteer with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Ensure all new volunteers are provided with a copy of the Child Safeguarding Statement
  - Ensure every Volunteer completes the online introduction to children first and completes certification
  - Encourage all Officers to avail of relevant training
  - Maintains records of all Volunteer training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, Ból Chumann na hÉireann volunteers are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the Children First. For mandated staff they have to report concerns to Tusla either on their own or with the DLP – Caroline Smith
  - Ból Chumann na hÉireann has appointed the above named DLP as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the child safeguarding statement.
  - In accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Ból Chumann na hÉireann has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending events. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and for managing those risks is attached as an appendix to these procedures.

The Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Officers on  
28<sup>th</sup> May 2023 [DATE]

**Chairperson of Ból Chumann na hÉireann**

Signed: [Signature]

Date: 28/5/2023

**Secretary of Ból Chumann na hÉireann**

Signed: [Signature]

Date: 28/5/2023