



IODAI Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1 – Organisation Name: International Optimist Dinghy Association of Ireland (IODAI)

IODAI is the national class association responsible for the promotion and development of youth sailing in the Optimist Dinghy Class in Ireland. IODAI organises training, coaching, championships, selection trials and participation in national and international events.

IODAI does not operate a permanent sailing facility. Activities are delivered in partnership with yacht clubs and sailing centres throughout Ireland.

Organisation: International Optimist Dinghy Association of Ireland (IODAI)

Activities: Sailing, Racing, Training, Coaching, Event Organisation

Address: Unit 1A, Tramore Commercial Park, Tramore Road, Togher, Co. Cork

Number of members: Approximately 200

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

IODAI is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults by working under the guidance of Irish Sailing's Safeguarding Policies. Through our staff, both volunteers and employed, and membership base, we seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport. The following set of principles are adhered to:

- **Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood is understood and valued by everyone involved in our sport.
- **Needs of the child** - All children's sport experiences are guided by what is best for children. This means that adults 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 sailing and is 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 are valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

Signed:

Date: 1st January 2026

Fiona Ryan

Name: Fiona Ryan

Association Children's Officer, IODAI

Section 3 - Risk Assessment

This Risk Assessment indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents require to manage and mitigate these risks. All of these policies are hosted on Irish Sailing's website: www.sailing.ie/library

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Club and Coaching Practices ○ Lack of coaching qualification. ○ Supervision issues. ○ Unauthorised photography & recording activities. ○ Behavioural Issues. ○ Lack of gender balance amongst instructors/coaches ○ No guidance for travelling & away trips ○ Lack of adherence with misc. procedures in Safeguarding policy	○ Coach education policy/Recruitment policy. ○ Supervision policy/Training policy ○ Photography & Use of Images policy ○ Code of Conduct / Safeguarding Training/ Complaints & Disciplinary policy. ○ Equal Opportunities / Supervision policy. ○ Travel/Away trip policy / Safeguarding Training. ○ Safeguarding Policy / Complaints & disciplinary policy
Complaints & Discipline ○ Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy. ○ Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent ○ Complaints not being dealt with seriously	○ Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy / Communications procedure. ○ Complaints & Disciplinary procedure policy / Reporting Guidelines ○ Complaints & Disciplinary procedure policy.
Reporting Procedures ○ Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures ○ No DLP appointed. ○ Concerns of abuse or harm not reported. ○ Not clear who YP should talk to or report to.	○ Reporting procedures policy / Coach Education policy / Code of Conduct. ○ Reporting procedures policy. ○ Reporting procedures policy / Safeguarding Training ○ Poster with key roles
Use of Facilities ○ Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc..... ○ Unauthorised exit from children's areas. ○ Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas.	○ Supervision policy / Training Policy ○ Supervision policy / Training Policy ○ Photography & use of images policy ○ Safeguarding policy.

Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc...	
Recruitment - Recruitment of inappropriate people. - Lack of clarity on roles. - Unqualified or untrained people in role.	- Recruitment policy. - Recruitment policy. - Recruitment policy.
Communications - Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors. - No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members of visitors. - Unauthorised photography & recording of activities. - Inappropriate use of social media & communications by under 18's	- Child Safeguarding Statement / Safeguarding Training Policy. - Child Safeguarding Statement (display)/ Code of conduct/Coach charter (distribute) - Child safeguarding steps and process given to host club for any event - Photography & Use of Images policy - Communications policy/Code of conduct
Team Foreign Travel Selection & recruitment of coaches - Supervision issues - Safeguarding of children when traveling	- Coach recruitment policy – international section included to cover garda vetting equivalent outside Ireland - Foreign travel policy
General Risk of Harm - Harm not being recognised. - Harm caused by: - Child to Child. - Coach to Child. - Volunteer to Child. - Parent of other to child - General behavioural issues. - Issues of Bullying. - Vetting of staff/volunteers. - Issues of Online Safety	- Child Safeguarding Training Policy - Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training Policy / Supervision Policy - Code of Conduct and paren't code of conduct - Anti-Bullying policy. - Recruitment policy / Garda Vetting policy. - Social Media policy.

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 1/1/2026 and will be reviewed within 2 years, on or before the 1/1/2028



Signed:

Fiona Ryan

Name: Fiona Ryan

Association Children's Officer, IODAI

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, Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure & Practice and Sport Ireland's Safeguarding Guidance for Children & Young People in Sport.

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 following policies & procedures in place:

- 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.
- 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 in the relevant service who are mandated persons.

Section 5 – Implementation

IODAI is committed to the ongoing implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm.

Please note the following:

- This statement and supporting policies will be displayed on our website and will be available to view for all.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on or before: 1/1/2028



Signed:

Fiona Ryan

Association Children's Officer

fionafgryan@gmail.com

Signed:

Jim Hughes

Association President

For additional queries on this Safeguarding Statement, all relevant concerns, allegations, complaints and their outcomes should be notified to Irish Sailing's National Children's Officer & Mandated Person please contact Irish Sailing Safeguarding at 01 2710113 or safeguarding@sailing.ie