



IODAI Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1 – Information

The Optimist Dinghy Sailing Association of Ireland CLG (IODAI) was incorporated in 2006 with the objective of promoting youth sailing in the Optimist Dinghy Class in Ireland through running Championships, selection Trials, other racing events, Coaching and participation in National and International Events.

IODAI does not have any specific sailing centre but operates as part of the Organising Authority ('OA') in conjunction with Yacht Clubs and Sailing Centres that operate throughout the island of Ireland at various events and also runs training and coaching for its members.

IODAI details:

- Name: The Optimist Dinghy Sailing Association of Ireland CLG (IODAI)
- Sport: Sailing
- Registered Office: Unit 1a, Tramore Commercial Park, Tramore Road, Togher, Cork
- Size: 200 members
- Activities: Optimist Dinghy sailing, racing and sail training/coaching

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

IODAI is committed to safeguarding children. By working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies our volunteers and employed coaches, working with our young people, 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 helps 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.

Section 3 - Risk Assessment

This IODAI 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:

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
<p>Operation as part of an OA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirement of third parties to comply with child safeguarding legislation • Need for on shore and on the water practices to be compliant • 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. • Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification of host club policies and procedures • Verification of host club policies and procedures • Verification of host club policies and procedures • Verification of host club policies and procedures • Verification of host club policies and procedures • Verification of host club policies and procedures
<p>Club and Coaching Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of coaching qualification. • Supervision issues. • Unauthorised photography & recording activities. • Behavioural Issues. • Lack of gender balance amongst coaches • Lack of adherence with procedures in Safeguarding policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach education policy/Recruitment policy. • Supervision and safety policy /Coach education policy • Photography & Use of Images policy • Code of Conduct / Complaints & Disciplinary policy. • Diversity Policy / Supervision policy. • Safeguarding Policy / Complaints & disciplinary policy

<p>Teams Foreign Travel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection & recruitment of coaches • Supervision issues • Safeguarding of children when traveling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach recruitment policy – international section included to cover garda vetting equivalent outside Ireland • Foreign travel 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"> • Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/ policy / Communications procedure. • Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/ policy / Communications procedure. • Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/ policy.
<p>Reporting Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting procedures/policy / Coach Education policy / Code of Conduct/ Behaviour. • Reporting procedures/policy. • Reporting procedures/policy / Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1-2-3 • Poster with names of CCO, DLP and
<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement / Training Policy. • Child Safeguarding Statement / Code of Conduct posted on IODAI Website • Photography & Use of Images policy • Communications policy / Code of 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 behavioural issues. • Issues of Bullying. • Vetting of staff/volunteers. • Issues of Online Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training Plan • Safeguarding policy / Child Safeguarding Training Plan • Code of Conduct • Anti-Bullying policy. • Recruitment policy / Vetting policy. • Social Media / Online Safety policy.
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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.

IODAI 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 in the relevant service who are mandated persons.

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.

The Mandated Person for Irish Sailing is Ciarán Murphy and may be contacted at ciarane.murphy@sailing.ie or by phone at 01 2800239 or mobile number is 087 8800744.

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. IODAI 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 committee members have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, our governing body Irish Sailing and members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed on our website at www.iodai.com

This Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment will be reviewed by 1st May 2024

Signed:

Dated this day of September 2022

Name: Emer O'Donnell, Association Children's Officer

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact – Emer O'Donnell at emer.odonnell@gmail.com