



# KILCULLEN CANOE CLUB

## Child Safeguarding Policy

This policy applies to all those involved in Kilcullen Canoe Club (the Club) including, but not limited to, coaches, leaders, supervisors, officers, committee members, volunteers, members, parents, guardians and young people.

### CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

Kilcullen Canoe Club is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members. Every individual in the club, should at all times show respect and understanding for their rights, safety and welfare and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the club and the guidelines contained in the Irish Sport's Council Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport.

**“Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence; they must be kept safe from harm, and they must be given proper care by those looking after them” (Article 19; UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)**

Kilcullen Canoe Club supports the view that all children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. In this context, the Club undertakes to adopt the definition of Sports Integrity as set out in the revised European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe (2022):

*“ 'Sport integrity' encompasses the components of personal, competitive and organisational integrity.*

*Threats to sports integrity include criminal offences such as corruption, fraud and coercion, but also violations of statutory and disciplinary regulations and unethical behaviour. The pursuit of sport integrity should thus commit all stakeholders and:*

*a. protect all people, particularly the young, from violence, harassment and abuse, ensure the safety and security of individuals and foster respect for and protection of internationally recognised human rights, including social rights;*

*b. support fair play, which is much more than playing within the rules. Fair play incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and a sense of fellowship. It includes issues concerned with cheating, the use of unfair strategies while respecting the rules, manipulation of sports competitions and doping;*

*c. inspire a governance of sport that is compliant with the principles of transparency, integrity, democracy, development and solidarity, which should be secured by checks and balances and control mechanisms.”*

In order to promote the best practice in children's sport, the Club complies with the guidelines as set out in Section 2.7 of the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport as follows;

- The Club has adopted and implemented the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport as an integral part of its policy on children in the Club.
- The Club is operated under its defined Constitution, Policies and Rules. The Club Constitution has been approved and adopted by Club's members at Annual General Meetings of the members of the Club. Any changes to the Club Constitution have to be approved by the members of the Club at a General Meeting of the members.
- The Club has adopted and consistently applies a safe and clearly defined method of recruiting and selecting its sports Leaders.
- The roles of the committee members, all Sports Leaders and parents/ guardians have been clearly defined.
- The Club appoints one Female Children's Officer and a Male Children's Officer at the AGM as outlined in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport. The Children's officers are ex officio member of the Committee.
- The Committee appoints a member of the Club to act as Designated Person to liaise with the Statutory Authorities in relation to the reporting of allegations or suspicions of child abuse. Any such reports are made in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport.
- In order to ensure best practice throughout the Club, the Committee disseminates its code of conduct, including the disciplinary, complaints and appeals procedures in operation within the Club to all its members. The Club's code of conduct is posted prominently around the Club premises.
- Procedures have been put in place for dealing with a concern or complaint made against any club member, including a Committee Member or Sports Leader. A club member who is the subject of an allegation which has been reported to the Children's Officers, Designated Person or Statutory Authorities, shall stand aside while the matter is being examined. He/she will be invited to resume full duties immediately that he/she has been vindicated.
- Where appropriate, Sports Leaders are required to report to the Committee on a regular basis.
- The Club encourages regular turnover of committee membership while ensuring continuity and experience.
- Effective procedures for responding to and recording accidents/ incidents have been put in place.
- The Club monitors both the use of the facilities and participation in Club activities to ensure that any unusual activity (high rate of drop-out, transfers, etc.) is identified, checked out and reported by the Children's Officers or Designated Person to the Committee.
- All Club members are given adequate notice of all Annual General Meetings and other meetings of the Club.
- The minutes of all Committee meetings, including AGM's and EGM's are recorded, adopted as correct and safely filed.

Kilcullen Canoe Club is committed to ensuring that Sports Leaders are competent to provide safe and rewarding experiences for those in their care and that Sport Leaders are provided with the appropriate training for their activity. Appropriate training and education opportunities will also be made available to Club officers, leaders, supervisor and parents/guardians as appropriate.

◆ Kilcullen Canoe Club is committed to ensuring that adequate adult supervision of all Club activities involving children is provided. ◆

## EQUALITY STATEMENT

All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, sex, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion. Children, irrespective of ability or disability should be involved in sports activities in an integrated and inclusive way, whenever possible, thus allowing them to participate to their full potential alongside other children (Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport 2000).

Kilcullen Canoe Club recognises the additional vulnerability of some children and the extra difficulties they may face when seeking help, i.e.

- Dependency due to disability may make some children feel powerless;
- On occasions, possible limited ability to communicate their feelings;
- A negative self-image can make children vulnerable to manipulation by others.

To address this vulnerability coaches, leaders and supervisors are encouraged to seek guidance on working with children with a disability from external agencies, parents / guardians and the children themselves.

## CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

Kilcullen Canoe Club recognises the legal principle that the welfare of the child is paramount. That legal principle means that consideration of confidentiality should not be allowed to override the right of children to be protected from harm. Everyone in our organisation, including children, must be aware that they can never promise to keep secrets. In line with Canoeing Ireland Safeguarding Policy & Procedures, information of a confidential or sensitive nature will only be communicated to the correct people who have a 'need to know' such as CO, DLP and/or statutory authorities (An Garda Síochána, TUSLA).

## CHILDREN'S OFFICER

The contact details for the Children's Officer and Designated Liaison Officer within Kilcullen Canoe Club are published on the notice board in the clubhouse foyer and on the club web site.

The Club has procedures in place for dealing with any concern or allegation of abuse either within the Club or externally, but the first point of contact for a child, parent/guardian or coach should be the Children's Officer, although any individual has the right to contact the HSE/Social Services or the Gardaí if they have a concern about a child's safety.

**SIGNED & RATIFIED, APRIL 2024**

*Pádraic Reilly*

PÁDRAIC REILLY  
CHAIRPERSON

*Ann Magee*

ANN MAGEE  
CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

*Michael O'Farrell*

MICHAEL O'FARRELL  
CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER