ONAKAI Child Safeguarding Statement.

Official National Amateur Karate Association of Ireland (ONAKAI) is the national governing body for karate in Ireland. We provide various sporting activities and opportunities for young people through participation in clubs, regional/provincial and national events and through our national teams.

ONAKAI 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.

This ONAKAI 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 require 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
Club and Coaching Practices 1. Lack of coaching qualification. 2. Supervision issues. 3. Unauthorised photography & recording activities. 4. Behavioural Issues. 5. Lack of gender balance amongst coaches. 6. No guidance for travelling & away trips. 7. Lack of adherence with misc. procedures in Safeguarding policy.	1. Coach education policy. Recruitment policy. 2. Codes of conduct. Travel Policy. 3. Social media policy. 4. Code of Conduct/Safeguarding1/ Complaints & Disciplinary policy. 5. Equality policy. 6. Travel policy 7. Safeguarding Policy/Complaints & disciplinary policy. Codes of Conduct.
Complaints & Discipline 1. Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy. 2. Difficulty in raising an issue by child and/or parent or guardian. 3. Complaints not being dealt with seriously.	1. Complaints, Grievances & Disciplinary policy. 2. Complaints, Grievances & Disciplinary policy 3. Complaints, Grievances & Disciplinary policy
Reporting Procedures 1. Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures 2. No DLP appointed. 3. Concerns of abuse or harm not reported. 4. Not clear who Young person should talk to or report to.	1. Safeguarding Policy/Complaints & disciplinary policy. Codes of Conduct. Reporting procedures/policy. 2. Safeguarding Policy/Complaints & disciplinary policy. Codes of Conduct. 3. Safeguarding Policy/Complaints & disciplinary policy. Codes of Conduct. 4. Safeguarding Policy/Complaints & disciplinary policy. Codes of Conduct.
Use of Facilities 1. Unauthorised access to designated children's play, practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. 2. Unauthorised exit from children's areas. 3. Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas. 4. Missing or found child on site. 5. Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc.	1. Supervision policy/ Safeguarding policy 2. Supervision policy/ Safeguarding policy 3. Filming and Photography Policy and Guidance 4. Supervision policy/ Safeguarding policy 5. Supervision policy/ Safeguarding policy

Recruitment 1. Recruitment of inappropriate people. 2. Lack of clarity on roles. 3. Unqualified or untrained people in role.	 1. Recruitment policy. 2. Recruitment policy. 3. Recruitment policy.
Communications 1. Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors. 2. No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members of visitors. 3. Unauthorised photography and recording of activities. 4. Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18's.	 1. Child Safeguarding Statement / Training Policy. 2. Child Safeguarding Statement (display)/Code of Behaviour (distribute). 3. Filming and Photography Policy and Guidance 4. Social media policy/Code of conduct, Filming and Photography Policy and Guidance
General Risk of Harm 1. Harm not being recognised. 2. Harm caused by: a. Child to Child. b. Coach to Child. c. Volunteer to Child. d. Member to Child. e. Visitor to Child. 3. General behavioural issues. 4. Issues of Bullying. 5. Vetting of staff/volunteers. 6. Issues of Online Safety	 1. Safeguarding policy/Child Safeguarding Training. 2. Safeguarding policy/Child Safeguarding Training. 3. Codes of Conduct. 4. Anti-Bullying policy. 5. Recruitment policy/Vetting policy. 6. Social Media/Online Safety policy, Filming and Photography Policy and Guidance

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on **the 7th of November 2024**.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been prepared in accordance with the requirements contained in the Children First Act 2015, Children's First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), the Children (NI) Order 1995, Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice 2017.

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.

ONAKAI 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.

Please note that all procedures listed above are available on our website www.onakai.ie in the governance section.

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. We are 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 and volunteers have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, the Agency, and members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place at events.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 7th of November 2026.

Name: Victoria Hockings **Signed:** Victoria Hockings (Nov 7, 2024 11:46 GMT+2)

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For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact Victoria Hockings NCO.