



O.N.A.K.A.I.

Official National Amateur Karate Association of Ireland

National Governing Body for Karate in Ireland

Child Safeguarding Statement

This statement applies to all those involved in O.N.A.K.A.I. including, but not limited to, coaches, administrators, officials, volunteers, members, parents, and young people.

O.N.A.K.A.I. is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members. Every individual in the organisation 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 O.N.A.K.A.I. and the guidelines contained in this policy Safeguarding for Child Protection and as complimented by O.N.A.K.A.I. Code of Conduct and Policy for the Safeguarding of Young People in the sport Karate in Ireland.

The term child protection has been expanded to safeguarding as it reflects the wider responsibility for health and safety and prevention as well as just protection from abuse. The word safeguarding has been used with increasing frequency over the last few years in a wide range of settings and situations, going well beyond the world of children and child protection. It is the intention of O.N.A.K.A.I. to ensure that the same care, protection and safeguarding to vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding is about being proactive and putting measures in place in advance of any contact with children to ensure that children are going to be kept safe and this is what O.N.A.K.A.I. wish to have in place.

In order to promote the best practice in children's sport, O.N.A.K.A.I. has adopted the [Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in 2008](#), [Sport Ireland Policy on Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities](#) and further implements the new Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Sport which specifically builds on the core principles of safeguarding originally set out in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children in Sport, providing alignment with current legislation and [Children First Guidance 2017](#).

O.N.A.K.A.I. provides sporting activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation in our and our member clubs' international, national, regional, and local events. O.N.A.K.A.I. is committed to safeguarding children. Working under the guidance of our O.N.A.K.A.I. Safeguarding Policies our Executive Board, coaches, referees, and volunteers throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop. All our members including Associations and individual clubs work under the guidance and policies of our Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.

This O.N.A.K.A.I.'s 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 are contained in the following categories: Club and



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Coaching Practices; Complaints & Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications; and General Risk of Harm.

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 22nd February 2018 and reviewed in May 2021.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice) and Safeguarding Board Act (NI), 2011. 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.

O.N.A.K.A.I 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

The Relevant Person for O.N.A.K.A.I is Victoria Hockings

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our NGB 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.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 20th May 2024.

Signed:

Victoria Hockings

Date: 20.05.2021 (re-adopted)

Phone: 086 805 8123

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact:

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