

Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1

Father Mathews Basketball Club provides sporting activities and opportunities for young people (and adults), through participation in club, local and regional events.

Club details:

- Name: Father Mathews Basketball Club
- Sport: Basketball
- Location: Home Arena is, Mathews Arena, Model Farm Road, Cork
- Size: Roughly 250 members, age 6-60
- Activities: Training, development and participation in local, regional and national leagues and competitions for teams from age 12 plus, for both boys and girls. Academies teaching ball skills for boys and girls age 6-11 and basketball camps during school holidays. (Adult teams at various levels of competition are also hosted by the Club for both men and women, so that there is a progression route through the Club)

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

Father Mathews Basketball Club is committed to safeguarding children and to working under the guidance of Basketball Ireland and Sport Ireland Safeguarding Policies. Our volunteers 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.

Section 3 - Risk Assessment

This 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 this risk
	Club and Coaching Practices	
1	Lack of coaching qualification	Coach licensing operated by Basketball Ireland
		FMBC recruitment policy
2	Inadequate supervision	FMBC operational practices
3	Unauthorised photography and recording	FMBC photography policy
4	Poor practice amongst volunteers	BI code of conduct for coaches
		SLG1 training for volunteers
		FMBC complaints/disciplinary policy
5	Lack of gender balance in coaches	FMBC chaperone practices
6	Poor practice on trips	FMBC overnight trip policy
		BI Code of Conduct for coaches
		SGL1 training for volunteers
7	General practice issues	BI Code of Conduct for coaches
		SGL1 training for volunteers
		FMBC complaints/disciplinary policy
	Complaints and Discipline	
1	Lack of awareness/ adherence to complaints/disciplinary procedure	FMBC complaints/disciplinary policy
		FMBC communication structures

2	Difficulty in raising an issue by parent/child	FMBC complaints/disciplinary policy
		FMBC CWO Posters/Website
		FMBC CWO availability
		Access to BI CWO
3	Complaints not being dealt with seriously	FMBC complaints/disciplinary policy appeal process

		FMBC use of independent review in complaint process
		Access to BI CWO
	Reporting Procedures	
1	Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures	FMBC reporting procedures available online
		Access to FMBC CWO for advice
		Access to BI CWO for advice
2	No DLP appointed	CWO (which includes DLP role) enshrined in FMBC Constitution
3	Concerns of harm going unreported	SGL1 training for volunteers
		Access to FMBC complaints/disciplinary policy by parents
4	Unclear process for young person to seek advice from	FMBC website and CWO posters
	Use of Facilities	
1	Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.....	FMBC Child Welfare practices and monitoring
2	Photography, filming and recording in prohibited areas	FMBC photography policy
		BI Coaches Code of Conduct
		BI social media policy ****
3	Missing children on site	BI Coaches Code of Conduct
		SGL1 training for volunteers
4	Adults and children sharing changing rooms and toilets	FMBC child welfare practices

	Recruitment	
1	Recruitment of inappropriate volunteers	FMBC Safe recruitment policy
		BI coach licensing
		Coaches self-declaration
		SGL1 training
2	Lack of Role Clarity	FMBC induction process
		FMBC communication structures
		FMBC supervision practices
	Communications	
1	Lack of awareness regarding risk of harm	SGL1 training for volunteers
2	No communication of safeguarding policies and Codes of Conduct	Codes of Conduct on display in Arena****
		FMBC Codes of Conduct reissued at registration
		CSS on display in Arena
		Child Welfare policies available on FMBC website
3	Inappropriate use of social media and communications with Under 18s	FMBC communications structures
		SGL1 training for volunteers
		BI social media policy ****
	General Risk of Harm	
	Harm not being recognised	SGL1 training for volunteers

This Risk Assessment was reviewed in November 2020.

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, and An Túsala's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. 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.

FMBC has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse by volunteers against a child availing of our activities.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of 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 written procedures listed are available on request and via Club website. (denotes a practice rather than a written procedure)*

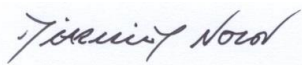
The Mandated/ Relevant Person for Basketball Ireland is Rory Wall – safeguarding@basketballireland.ie

Section 5 – Implementation

Father Mathews Basketball Club Committee recognises that implementation is an ongoing process. Our Club 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 statement is available on our website and also displayed in Father Mathews Arena

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in November 2022

Signed:  Date: 4th February 2020

On behalf of the Father Mathews Basketball Club.

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact;

Club CWO – Janine Bevan on 0894 108469