

Child Safeguarding Statement.

Section 1 – Father Mathews Basketball Club

Father Mathews Basketball Club provides various sporting activities and opportunities for young people through participation in clubs, regional/provincial events and through our national teams.

Club details:

- Name: Father Mathews Basketball Club
- Sport: Basketball
- Location: Mathews Arena, Eden Hall, Model Farm Road, Cork T12A 9XE
- Size: Membership of approx. 350 including men, ladies and underage sections.
- Activities: 8 adult teams, 14 kid's teams and an under 10s academy for boys and girls

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm.

Father Mathews Basketball Club is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our NGB (Basketball Ireland's) Safeguarding Policies our volunteers 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.

As part of Father Mathews continuing commitment to safeguarding children the committee is responsible for ensuring that there is a child safeguarding lead.

Section 3 - Risk Assessment

This ***Father Mathews Basketball Club*** 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/Practice in place to manage risk identified
<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 — No guidance for travelling & away trips — Lack of adherence with misc. procedures in Safeguarding policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — NGB Coach education policy and licensing system/Club Recruitment policy. — Club Supervision practice, feedback from parents/ NGB Coach education policy — NGB Photography & Use of Images policy/ Club photography policy — NGB and Club Codes of Conduct / Safeguarding training / Club Grievance policy. — Club Supervision practice/Club Chaperone policy. — Club Away-trip policy / Child Safeguarding Training. — Safeguarding Policy / Club Grievance policy
<p>Complaints & Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Club Grievance policy/Feedback from parents/coaches' meetings with parents/Club communication

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent. — Complaints not being dealt with seriously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Coaches’ meetings with parents/safeguarding training - Appeal section of Club grievance procedure
<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 report to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Club reporting procedures/safeguarding training — Committee lead/Club safeguarding statement — Club reporting procedures/Child Safeguarding Training — Public availability of contact details for safeguarding lead and DLP. / Club safeguarding statement
<p>Use of Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 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. — Missing or found child on site. — Children sharing facilities with adults e.g., — dressing room, showers etc... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Supervision practice /member feedback/safeguarding training — Supervision practice / safeguarding training — Photography policy and signage in changing rooms — Safeguarding training — Safeguarding training.

<p>Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Recruitment of inappropriate people. — Lack of clarity on roles. — Unqualified or untrained people in role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Club recruitment policy. — Club recruitment policy. — Club recruitment policy/ safeguarding training/NGB licensing system
<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 / safeguarding training /Club Codes of conduct — Child Safeguarding Statement (display) / Code of conduct (signed on membership). — Club Photography policy/Club PRO policy — Club social media policy/Club PRO policy and code of conduct
<p>General Risk of Harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Harm not being recognised. — Harm caused by: 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"> — Child Safeguarding Training. — Safeguarding Training/ Coach training/supervision practice/codes of conduct — Codes of Conduct. — NGB Anti-Bullying policy. /Codes of conduct/safeguarding training — Club Recruitment policy / NGB Vetting policy. /NGB coach licensing system — Club social media / NGB Online Safety policy.

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on (November 2023).

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 Tusla’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.

Father Mathews Basketball Club 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.

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request and on our website,

<https://www.mathewsbasketball.com/>

Relevant Person for Father Mathews Basketball Club is Jennifer Allen.

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise 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.

Please note the following:

- That all volunteers have been sent a copy of this document.
- 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 by the Club.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in 2024.

Signed: 

Date: January 2024

On behalf of Father Mathews Basketball Club

Name: Jennifer Allen

Phone no: 087 7925938

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact (Child Safeguarding Lead),

Jennifer Allen, 0877925938.