

Risk Assessment Document for *Athenry Football Club*

This risk assessment considers the potential for harm to come to children whilst they are in *Athenry Football Club's* care. This risk assessment precedes the Child Safeguarding Statement (Section 11 (1b) Children First Act 2015) which is developed following this risk assessment process. In accordance with the requirements of Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015 the risk is of abuse and not general health and safety risk (covered under a separate H&S policy and risk assessment).

Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015 states that where a person proposes to operate as a provider of a relevant service, he or she shall, within 3 months from the date on which he or she commences as such a provider —

(a) Undertake an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of the service (in this section referred to as a “risk”).

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club/Region/National	Further action required ...
CLUB & COACHING PRACTICES				
Lack of coaching qualification	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coach education policy Recruitment policy 	Club/Region/National	<i>Proof of qualifications sought/ Ongoing promotion of coaching courses.</i>
Supervision issues	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision policy Coach education policy 	Club	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Unauthorised photography & recording activities	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography and Use of Images policy 	Club	<i>Ongoing review/ Clubforce updated to reflect policy.</i>
Behavioural Issues	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Conduct Safeguarding Level 1 (min) Complaints & Disciplinary policy 	Club	<i>Ongoing Review/ policies in place should issues arise</i>
Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coach education policy Supervision policy 	Club/Region/ National	<i>Ongoing Review with active promotion of women in sport.</i>



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No guidance for travelling and away trips	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel/Away trip policy Child Safeguarding Training 	Club	Ongoing Review/ Refer to travel policy
Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy (i.e. mobile, photography, transport)	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding policy Complaints & disciplinary policy 	Club	Ongoing review with regular reminders issued to coaches
COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINE				
Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy Communications procedure 	Club	Refer to complaints policy/ Disciplinary Committee/ FAI Complaints Procedure all on our website
Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent Reason: Covered above	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy Communications procedure 	CWO/DLP /Club	Refer to complaints policy/ Disciplinary Committee/ FAI Complaints Procedure all on our website
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy 	CWO/DLP/ Club	Refer to Disciplinary/ Complaints policy
REPORTING PROCEDURES				
Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy Coach education policy Code of Conduct /Behaviour 	NGB MP DLP	Make policies and procedures available Include in Safeguarding Training (L.1) Include in Coach Education Training
Risk of securing suitable & qualified CWOs every Season	L	Recruitment Policy	Club	Publicise identity of Mandated Person Train Mandated Person in their role
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy 	Club	Ongoing Review

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 		Publicise names of CCOs, DLPs, MP(s) Publicise internal and external reporting procedures
Not clear who YP should talk to or report to	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Protection Policy 	CW O/C lab	Communicate in Club Include in Safeguarding Training (1.1)

FACILITIES

Unauthorised access to designated children's play & practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision policy Coach education 	NGB Club	Ongoing Review/ Clarify responsibilities before session starts. Operate within the recommended FAI Codes of Conduct and best practice guidelines as set out in the Children First Act 2015 and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.
Unauthorised exit from children's areas	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision policy Coach education 	Club	Clarify responsibilities before session starts
Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography policy and use of devices in private zones 	Club	Enforce policy in private changing and wet areas
Missing or found child on site	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing or found child policy 	Club	Ongoing Review/ Coaches ensure all children are collected for academy ages before leaving session.
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding policy 	Club/CWO	Plan with facilities management to create a suitable child centred environment in shared facilities

Recruitment of inappropriate people	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment policy 	NGB Club	Ongoing review
Unqualified or untrained people in role	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment policy 	Club	Review progress regularly and make changes as necessary.
Lack of clarity on roles	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment policy 	Club	Check Job Description. / Put supervision in place.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coach to child - volunteer to child - member to child - visitor to child 	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Safeguarding Training 	Club	Ongoing Review/ Club force membership updated to ensure members are aware they are not covered for player insurance.
General behavioural issues	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Conduct 	Club/ Region/ National	Take disciplinary action where necessary Sign code of conduct
Ensure First Aid Boxes are replenished after use	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Conduct 	First Aid Officer / Coaches	Ongoing Review

Explanation of terms used:

- **Potential risk of harm to children** – these are identified risks of harm to children whilst accessing activities in the Club/Region/Province/NGB.
- **Likelihood of harm happening** – the likelihood of the risk occurring in the club/region/NGB measured by you as Low/Medium or High.
- **Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document** – indication of the policy required to alleviate the risk.
- **Responsibility** – provider should indicate where the responsibility for alleviating the risk lies.
- **Further action...** - indicates further action that might be necessary to alleviate any risk ongoing.

This Risk Assessment document has been discussed and completed by Athenry Football Club on 27th / November / 2025 ²⁰²⁵

Signed:



Name: Steven McElhinney

Role: *Secretary*

Date: 27/11/2025

Signed:



Name: Alan Eastwood

Role: Club Children's Officer

Date: 27/11/2025