



Dubai Eire Og Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

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1. Club Safeguarding statement

Dubai Eire Óg is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of its members. Every individual in the club 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 the club and our host country. Our guiding child protection principle is closely aligned to Article 19 from UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

"Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence; they must be kept safe from harm, and they must be given proper care by those looking after them"

2. Club Standards for Managing Safeguarding and Child Protection

Children have the right to be safe. All coaches should ensure that this fundamental principle takes precedence over all other considerations.

Standards set by Dubai Éire Óg will be achieved by adhering to the following:

- Elect or appoint a committee at the annual general meeting (AGM)
- Have a safe and clear way of choosing coaches
- Clearly state the roles of the committee, coaches, and parents
- Appoint a Child Protection Officer at the AGM
- Have a committee member act as the Designated Safeguarding Lead to talk to authorities about abuse reports and follow the procedures in the policy
- Communicate the club's policies and procedures to members
- Have a plan for dealing with complaints or concerns about a coach or adult in the club
- Make sure coaches regularly report to the committee about safety and protection



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- Have a plan for dealing with accidents and injuries
- Let members, coaches, and parents know who the Child Protection Officers are and who to talk to about concerns
- Be aware of signs of abuse and protect players from it
- Handle every suspicion or complaint of abuse and support the players who reported it
- Make sure coaches have been trained in safety and protection
- Protect coaches and volunteers from false accusations
- Check and update policies and procedures regularly
- Remind members that abuse can happen anywhere and to stay vigilant.

This policy applies to all those involved in Dubai Eire Og, coaches, administrators, officials, volunteers, parents and young people. This policy should be read in conjunction with :

- **Dubai Éire Óg Code of Behaviour for Coaches**
- **Dubai Éire Óg Code of Behaviour for Players**

3. Child Protection Officers

The Child Protection Officers within Dubai Éire Óg are:

Mrs. Fiona O'Connell -Lead Child Protection Officer

Email: foconnell@vhprimary.com

Phone: 052 974 5534

Mr. Rory Galvin- Designated Safeguarding Lead

Email: secretary.dubaieireog.middleeast@gaa.ie

Phone: 055 37045334



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4. Types of Abuse and Neglect

It is important for coaches and volunteers to understand that issues related to abuse, neglect, and safeguarding are complex and often involve multiple overlapping factors. Child abuse can take many forms and can be inflicted by both known and unknown individuals, in both familial and institutional settings. Furthermore, abuse can occur both online and offline and can be perpetrated by both adults and other children. It is essential for coaches and volunteers to be aware of these complexities in order to effectively identify and address any issues that may arise

There are 4 main types of abuse:

- Physical abuse: a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.
- Emotional abuse is a form of maltreatment that harms a child's emotional development by repeatedly causing them to feel worthless, unloved, inadequate, or only valuable for meeting others' needs. It can include silencing or mocking a child's expressions, imposing unrealistic expectations, limiting their exploration and learning, preventing them from participating in normal social interactions, exposing them to the abuse of others, bullying, and exploiting or corrupting them. It is often present in all forms of child maltreatment, but can also occur alone.
- Sexual abuse is when someone forces or tricks a child into doing sexual things. It can happen with or without violence, and the child may not know it's happening. It can include physical contact, like rape or touching, or non-physical contact, like making a child look at sexual pictures. It can also happen online and can be done by men, women, and other children.
- Neglect is when someone doesn't take care of a child's basic needs, like food, clothes, and a safe place to live. This can hurt the child's health and development. It can happen before the child is born if the mother is using drugs. After the child is born, it can happen when a parent or caregiver doesn't give the child enough food, doesn't protect the child from harm, doesn't make sure the child is supervised, or doesn't get the child medical care. It can also happen when a parent doesn't give the child enough love or attention. Sometimes, even if a child has everything they need, they can still be neglected if they are not given enough love and attention
- Peer on Peer abuse:



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It's important for all coaches to know that children can hurt other children. This is called peer-on-peer abuse. It can include:

- Bullying, including online bullying
- Physical abuse like hitting, kicking, or hurting someone
- Sexual violence like rape or sexual assault
- Sexual harassment like making rude comments or jokes
- Taking pictures without someone's permission to see their private parts
- Sending sexual pictures or videos
- Hazing or initiation rituals If a child is being bullied, it's considered abuse and will be treated as a serious concern.

Please see **Code of Behaviour** for more info on Bullying

5. Signs that a child might be being abused could include:

- Noticeable changes in their behavior
- The child is not doing well
- Bruises, marks or signs of abuse or neglect
- Things the child says that make you worried
- Suspicions of abuse or neglect at home
- Adults acting inappropriately
- The child getting hurt often
- The child is dirty, smelly, poorly dressed or not eating well



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- The child is sick a lot or their school work is getting worse
- The child is distant or doesn't seem to care
- The child is too obedient
- The child is always watching
- The child is doing sexual things that are not appropriate for their age
- The child doesn't want to go home or is kept away for no reason
- The child doesn't trust adults
- The child has stomach aches with no medical reason
- The child has eating problems or trouble sleeping
- The child runs away or tries to hurt themselves
- The child is self-harming
- The child is acting younger than they are
- The child is depressed or withdrawn
- The child has secret relationships with adults that exclude others.

6. What to do in the event of a disclosure:

If a player tells a coach or volunteer about abuse, they should:

- Listen carefully and not interrupt
- Ask only necessary clarifying questions
- Not investigate or decide if the player was abused
- Tell the player that they have to tell someone else to make sure they are safe



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- Make notes of what the player said as soon as possible
- Reassure the player they did the right thing
- Offer ongoing support
- Tell the club Child Protection Officer and Designated Safeguarding Lead right away if the player is in danger.
- Notes should be written by hand on a safeguarding form and not include opinions. They should be accurate, clear, and signed.
- Keep them securely and give them to the CPO/ Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.
- Any evidence such as notes, phones, or clothing should also be kept safe and given to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

All suspicions or complaints of abuse must be reported immediately to the CPO and Designated Safeguarding Lead

7. Referral and Reporting:

It is the responsibility of coaches, players, parents and other members of the club community, including volunteers, to:

- Protect children from abuse
- Know the club child protection procedures
- Know how to use the procedures if needed
- Keep records of any complaints or events
- Report any concerns to the CPO/ Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Get the appropriate training and update it regularly



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- It is not the coaches, committee or any other adult's job to investigate suspected abuse. The club's role is to recognize and report abuse, not to investigate it. When a complaint or suspicion of abuse is reported, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will:
- Follow the local laws for safety procedures
- Liaise with executive committee and consider the severity of the complaint and if necessary, report it to the police
- Respect the player's wishes, but may need to act if the situation is serious
- Keep information confidential but inform relevant parties if necessary
- Consult with authorities if unsure if a report should be made
- Make a report within 24 hours if there is concern for the child's safety
- Keep the Chairperson informed unless the complaint involves the Chairperson
- Coaches should not investigate suspected abuse and should report it to the CPO /Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately.

8. Allegations of Abuse made against members of the club and other members of the DEO community

Any allegation made against a coach or volunteer will be handled in accordance with best practices as set out by the GAA and UAE law.

Coaches and volunteers are given guidance to make sure their actions do not harm or put students or themselves at risk of allegations of harm. This guidance is in the Code of Conduct for Coaches and includes extra safety measures for one-on-one coaching. Coaches and volunteers should also speak up about any concerns about poor or unsafe practices at the club, failures by the club or officers to protect players, or other wrongdoings that don't involve child safety.



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9. Allegations of Abuse made against players (Peer on Peer abuse)

All coaches should know that children can abuse other children, which is called peer-on-peer abuse. This can happen in different ways, such as physical, sexual, and emotional bullying and/or abuse. Coaches should also know that peer-on-peer abuse should not be ignored or treated as a joke. If a child is suspected of being harmed, it should be reported to the proper channels. Players who have been abused can talk to a coach or CPO for help. If a player is accused of abuse, they may be asked not to attend training during the investigation. The club will take all necessary steps to make sure all players are safe and will follow the advice of professionals during the investigation. If a player needs to be interviewed by the police, the club will inform the parents and make sure the player has support during the interview.

10. Confidentiality Statement

Dubai Eire Og understands that the safety and well-being of children is the most important thing, and that keeping secrets should never be more important than protecting children from harm. Everyone in our organization, including children, must know that they cannot make promises to keep things secret. However, private information will only be shared with people who need to know it.