



Newbridge Hockey Club Child Safeguarding Statement

Approved V3 | August 2026

1. Club information and relevant service

Club	Newbridge Hockey Club
Sport	Hockey
Location	Newbridge, Co. Kildare
Service provided	Hockey activities, coaching, training, fixtures, camps, schools outreach, blitzes, events, communications and other club activities involving children and young people.
Children and young people	Up to 250 Junior members and other children who take part in club activities.
Provider	Newbridge Hockey Club Committee / Chairperson.
Club Children's Officer / Relevant Person	Anna Kelly
Designated Liaison Person	Denise Moppett
Hockey Ireland safeguarding contacts	Refer to Hockey Ireland safeguarding page for current National Children's Officer and Designated Liaison Person contact details.

2. Principles to safeguard children from harm

Newbridge Hockey Club is committed to safeguarding children and young people by working under the guidance of Hockey Ireland, Sport Ireland and the applicable statutory guidance in Ireland. The welfare, safety and best interests of children are central to how the club organises and delivers hockey activities.

- **Welfare and best interests of children:** the child's welfare is paramount and decisions should be guided by what is best for children and young people.
- **Child-centred practice:** children have a right to be heard, listened to and taken seriously, taking account of their age and understanding.
- **Respect and dignity:** all children should be treated with respect, dignity and fairness, regardless of ability, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, social or ethnic background or political persuasion.
- **Safe, positive hockey environment:** hockey should be fun, healthy, inclusive and conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.
- **Integrity in relationships:** adults working with children are in positions of trust and must never abuse that trust.
- **Fair play and appropriate competition:** hockey should promote fair play, respect, integrity and age-appropriate competition.
- **Shared responsibility:** safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Coaches, volunteers, parents/guardians, committee members and players all have a role in creating a safe environment.
- **Early reporting and response:** any child protection or welfare concern must be responded to promptly and reported through the club and statutory procedures as appropriate.

3. Risk assessment

The club has looked at the main situations where a child could be harmed while taking part in club activities. The table below explains these risks and sets out the practical steps the club uses to reduce them.

Area	What could go wrong?	What the club will do to reduce the risk
Coaching and supervision	A child may not be properly supervised, or a coach or volunteer may not have the right training or boundaries.	Use Garda vetting where required, safeguarding training, clear coach roles, codes of conduct, suitable supervision and regular committee oversight.
Knowing who to tell	A child, parent or volunteer may not know who to speak to if they are worried about something.	Make the Club Children's Officer / Relevant Person and Designated Liaison Person easy to find, and remind members how to raise a concern.
Reporting concerns	A concern about a child may not be noticed, written down or passed on quickly enough.	Use a clear reporting process, keep secure records and contact Tusla and/or An Garda Síochána where needed.
Concerns about an adult	A complaint or concern about a coach, leader or volunteer may not be handled safely or fairly.	Follow the club procedure for allegations against adults, involve the DLP, avoid conflicts of interest and keep secure records.
Recruiting volunteers	Someone unsuitable could be allowed to work with children, or a volunteer could start before checks and training are complete.	Use role descriptions, Garda vetting where required, references where appropriate, induction, training records and signed codes of conduct.
Changing rooms and toilets	Children could be left unsupervised, adults could enter private areas, or photos/videos could be taken in private spaces.	Use changing room guidance, supervise appropriately, restrict access to private areas and ban photography/recording in those spaces.
Photos, videos and social media	A child's image could be used without proper consent or shared in a way that identifies them inappropriately.	Get consent, use approved club channels, avoid unnecessary identifying details and store images securely.
Messages and online contact	A child could receive inappropriate messages, be contacted directly by an adult outside agreed channels, or experience online bullying.	Use approved communication channels, include parents/guardians where appropriate, avoid private one-to-one messaging and act on cyberbullying concerns.
Trips, matches and events away from home	A child could travel without permission, become separated from the group, be collected late or need help in an emergency.	Use consent forms, attendance lists, emergency contacts, agreed supervision, late collection steps, missing child steps and first aid arrangements.

Bullying or poor behaviour	A child could be bullied, excluded, intimidated or treated unfairly by another child or adult.	Use player and parent codes of conduct, anti-bullying steps, early intervention and the complaints/disciplinary process where needed.
Inclusion and additional needs	A child may not be fully included or safely supported because of ability, disability, medical needs or access requirements.	Talk to parents/guardians, agree reasonable supports, brief coaches and promote respectful and inclusive behaviour.
Injuries, illness or unsafe facilities	A child could be injured, become unwell or be affected by unsafe equipment or facilities.	Have first aid arrangements, emergency contacts, incident reporting, basic equipment checks and venue checks.
Safeguarding records and personal information	Private information about a child, family or concern could be lost, shared too widely or stored insecurely.	Keep records secure, share only with those who need to know, limit access and follow data protection good practice.

4. Procedures supporting this statement

In addition to the controls listed in the risk assessment, the following procedures and records support the club's intention to keep children safe while availing of club activities:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against coaches, leaders, workers or volunteers concerning a child availing of club activities.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of coaches, leaders, workers and volunteers, including Garda vetting where required.
- Procedure for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of harm and role-specific training such as Safeguarding 1, 2 and 3 as appropriate.
- Procedure for reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla and/or An Garda Síochána, as appropriate.
- Procedure for appointing and publicising the Club Children's Officer / Relevant Person and Designated Liaison Person.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of mandated persons, if any, relevant to the club. Note: Hockey Ireland identifies mandated person requirements at NGB level; the club should confirm whether any local mandated persons apply.

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.

5. Implementation, communication and review

- All committee members, coaches, leaders and regular volunteers must be provided with access to this Child Safeguarding Statement and the supporting procedures relevant to their role.
- Parents/guardians, children and young people should be told who the Club Children's Officer / Relevant Person and Designated Liaison Person are and how to raise a concern.
- This statement should be displayed publicly where appropriate, published on the club website or shared member channel, and made available to parents/guardians, Tusla and members of the public on request.
- The committee should maintain a safeguarding action log covering training, vetting, policy approval, incident records, complaints and review dates.
- This statement should be reviewed by August 2028, or sooner if there is a material change in club activities, personnel, legislation, guidance, venue arrangements or safeguarding risk.

6. Approval

Approved by	Newbridge Hockey Club Committee
Chairperson / Provider	Pamela McCann
Date approved	18/08/2026
Next review due	August 2028, or sooner if required

Sources checked for this update

- Tusla: Guidance on Developing a Child Safeguarding Statement - https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/4214-TUSLA_Guidance_on_Developing_a_CSS_LR.PDF
- Sport Ireland: Safeguarding Sport guidance and training information - <https://www.sportireland.ie/ethics/safeguarding-sport>
- Hockey Ireland: Safeguarding page - <https://hockey.ie/governance/safeguarding/>
- Hockey Ireland: Safeguarding Documents and templates page - <https://hockey.ie/governance/safeguarding/safeguarding-documents/>
- Hockey Ireland: Safeguarding Policy PDF, 2025 - <https://hockey.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Hockey-Ireland-Safeguarding-Policy.pdf>
- Department of Education: Child Safeguarding Statement page, including online safety addendum reference - <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/publications/child-safeguarding-statement/>

Note: This document is a governance working draft, not legal advice. It should be reviewed and approved by the club committee and safeguarding officers before publication.