

Pitch and Putt Ireland

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Pitch and Putt Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement

Pitch and Putt Ireland is the National Governing Body for Pitch and Putt in Ireland. Pitch and Putt Ireland provides various Pitch and Putt activities and opportunities for young people through participation in clubs, regional and provincial events, and through our national events.

- Name: Pitch and Putt Ireland
- Sport: Pitch and Putt
- Location: National

Section 2 - Safeguarding Principles

Pitch and Putt Ireland is committed to safeguarding children. By working under our Safeguarding Policies, our staff - both volunteers and employees - working with young people throughout the organisation seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within our sport by adhering to the following principles:

1. **Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in Pitch and Putt.
2. **Needs of the child** - All children's Pitch and Putt experiences should be guided by what is best for children. Adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of young people.
3. **Integrity in relationships** - Adults interacting with children in Pitch and Putt are in a position of trust and influence and must never abuse that position. Children should be treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people should be enhanced.
4. **Fair Play** - All children's Pitch and Putt 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.
5. **Quality atmosphere & ethos** - Children's Pitch and Putt should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.
6. **Competition** - Competition is an essential element of Pitch and Putt 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.
7. **Equality** - All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, social and ethnic background, or political persuasion.

Section 3 - Risk Assessment

Pitch and Putt Ireland's written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and the policy, guidance or process documents required to alleviate these risks. The risks identified and procedures used to manage them are contained in the following categories:

Potential risks	Policies and procedures to manage risk
Coaching Practices • Lack of coaching qualification • Supervision issues • Unauthorised photography and recording • Behavioural issues • Lack of gender balance amongst coaches • No guidance for travelling and away trips • Lack of adherence to safeguarding procedures	• Coach Education Policy / Recruitment Policy • Supervision Policy / Coach Education Policy • Photography and Use of Images Procedure • Code of Conduct / Safeguarding Level 1 / Complaints & Disciplinary Policy • Supervision Guidelines • Overnight & Away Trips Procedure / Child Safeguarding Training • Safeguarding Policy / Code of Conduct / Complaints & Disciplinary Policies
Complaints & Discipline • Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary Policy • Difficulty in raising an issue by a child and/or parent • Complaints not being dealt with seriously	• Disciplinary, Complaints and Appeals Procedure / Communication Procedure • Disciplinary, Complaints and Appeals Procedure / Communication Procedure
Reporting Procedures • Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures • No DLP appointed • Concerns of abuse or harm not reported • Not clear who a young person should talk or report to	• Reporting Procedures Policy / Codes of Conduct • Reporting Procedures Policy • Reporting Procedures Policy / Child Safeguarding Training - Level 1 • Post the names of Children's Officers and Designated Liaison Person
Use of Facilities • Unauthorised access to designated children's play and practice areas and to changing rooms, showers and toilets • 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 rooms and showers	• General Supervision Guidelines • General Supervision Guidelines • Photography and Use of Images Procedure • Safeguarding Policy • Safeguarding Policy
Recruitment • Recruitment of inappropriate people • Lack of clarity on roles • Unqualified or untrained people in role	• Recruitment & Selection Policy / NVB • Recruitment & Selection Policy • Recruitment & Selection Policy
Communications & Social Media • Lack of awareness of risk of harm with members and visitors • No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors • Unauthorised photography and recording of activities • Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under-18s • Inappropriate use of social media and communications with under-18s	• Child Safeguarding Statement / Recruitment & Selection Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement - display / Code of Behaviour - distribute • Photography and Use of Images Procedure • Codes of Conduct / Guidelines for Conduct • Codes of Conduct / Guidelines for Conduct

General Risk of Harm

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| <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">• Safeguarding Policy / Safeguarding Training• Safeguarding Policy / Safeguarding Training / Anti-Bullying Policy / Disciplinary Policy• Codes of Conduct / Guidelines for Conduct• Anti-Bullying Policy• Recruitment / Vetting Policy• Social Media Guidance |
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The risk assessment was undertaken on: 11/7/2026

Section 4 - Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, 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.

Pitch and Putt Ireland 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 organisation
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for reporting child protection or welfare concerns to the relevant Statutory Authorities

The Mandated Person/Designated Liaison Person for Pitch and Putt Ireland is Dwyne Hill.

Section 5 - Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Pitch and Putt Ireland 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:

- All volunteers and staff have been furnished with a copy of this statement
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, the Agency and members of the public on request
- This statement is displayed in a prominent place by Pitch and Putt Ireland

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by July 2028.

Signed: 

Name: David Redden
Pitch and Putt Ireland President
Phone no: 01-6251110

Signed: 

Name: Dwyne Hill
Pitch and Putt Ireland Designated Liaison Person
Phone no: 01-6251110

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the Pitch and Putt Ireland Office on 01-6251110 or email office@pitchandputtireland.ie.