

## Key Safeguarding Roles in Sport

### National Children's Officer (NCO)



Each Governing Body of Sport should appoint a National Children's Officer.

*Examples of their role would include:*

- To ensure that children's voices are heard and can influence the decisions of, the agenda of the Governing Body
- Have access to or be a member of the Executive Committee
- Have a knowledge of Safeguarding Guidance and relevant children protection legislation
- Promotion of values, attitudes and structures which make sport enjoyable for children
- Circulation of all relevant materials to clubs and affiliates
- Communicate with Club Children's Officer (CCO) to distribute policy and procedures and promotion of programmes/materials/events/governing related policies and procedures
- Liaise with clubs to examine the rules, regulations, and structures to ensure they are child-focused
- Assisting the development of a system of record keeping which maintains confidentiality while allowing for appropriate information to be passed to relevant authorities where necessary
- Ensuring the development of an appropriate sport specific policies and procedures

### Club Children's Officer (CCO)



Where possible sports club should appoint a CCO.

*Examples of their role would include:*

- Review current policies in relation to young people
- Be child centred in focus and establish a child centred ethos within the club
- Take responsibility for monitoring and reporting to the club management committee on how policy impacts young people and sports leaders
- Should have access to or be a member of the club management committee
- To promote awareness of safeguarding guidelines within the club
- Establish contact with the National Children's Officer at governing body level
- Ensure that children know how to make their concerns known
- Encourage appropriate involvement of parents/guardians in club activities
- Act as an advisory resource to Sports Leaders on best practice
- To monitor changes in membership (e.g unusual dropout)
- Establish communication with other branches of the club



## Designated Liaison Person



Each NGB/Club must appoint a Designated Liaison Person (DLP).

*Examples of their role would include:*

- Ensure the clubs reporting procedures are followed
- Reports any suspected cases of child neglect or abuse to the Duty Social Worker in Child and Family Agency/Túsła or an Garda Síochána (Republic of Ireland) and Gateway team or PSNI (Northern Ireland).
- Informing the NCO that a report has been made without identifying details
- Having knowledge about Child Protection, Relevant Legislation, and the Safeguarding Guidance Document for Children and Young People in Sport.
- Undertake any necessary training

## Mandated Person



The Mandated person is a person named under schedule 2 of Children First Act 2015 (ROI). They have a legal responsibility to report concerns or allegations that reach or exceed the threshold of harm of abuse to the Tusla (refer to National Governing Body/Club for list of mandated persons).

*Examples of their role would include:*

- Report the harm of children above a defined threshold to Tusla
- To assist Tusla, if requested, in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report
- Where mandated reporting is warranted, best practice would be to make a joint report with the relevant DLP.

Note: Children First Guidance applies to everyone. The Children First Act applies to providers of relevant services and to mandated persons. The fact that the Guidance applies to everyone is extremely important – this places the responsibility on everyone to be vigilant, and to protect the welfare of children and young people.

