WATERFORD BOAT CLUB

CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Version 3.0	Date	30/9/2026	Author	Waterford Boat Club
Committee Approval	20/10/2026	Review Date 30/9/2027	Document Status	Club Policy

1. Our Commitment to Safeguarding

Waterford Boat Club is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people who participate in rowing and related Club activities. The Club provides opportunities for children and young people to participate in rowing through supervised coaching, training, competition, Club activities, trips and events, both on and off the water. We recognise that children and young people have the right to participate in sport in a safe, positive, inclusive and supportive environment. The welfare and protection of children is central to all aspects of our Club activities. This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed with regard to the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, Sport Ireland safeguarding guidance, and the safeguarding policies, procedures and guidance issued by Rowing Ireland.

2. Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

Waterford Boat Club has completed a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment, identifying areas where there may be a risk of harm to children during the Club's activities. The assessment considers safeguarding risks associated with club and coaching practices; on-water and off-water activities; competitions and events; changing facilities; transport and away trips; recruitment and vetting; communications and social media; photography; complaints and discipline; bullying; use of facilities; supervision; and the general risk of harm. There are a number of policies that we are working on drafting. The Risk Assessment identifies the policies, procedures and controls required to minimise these risks. It will be reviewed regularly and whenever there is a significant change to the Club's activities, facilities, personnel or safeguarding requirements.

Risk Assessment Date: 30/09/2026

3. Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

Waterford Boat Club will implement the relevant Rowing Ireland safeguarding policies, procedures and guidance appropriate to its activities. These include procedures for reporting concerns of child abuse or neglect; managing allegations of abuse or misconduct; safe recruitment and Garda vetting; safeguarding training; codes of conduct; anti-bullying; complaints and discipline; changing facilities; away trips; communications and social media; photography and use of images; incident reporting; and appropriate supervision and coaching practices.

4. Designated Liaison Person and Club Children's Officer

The Club has appointed a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) to act as the relevant safeguarding contact and to deal with concerns relating to the protection and welfare of children. The DLP will ensure that concerns are appropriately managed and

reported in accordance with statutory requirements and Rowing Ireland procedures. The Club also appoints a Club Children's Officer (CCO) to promote a child-centred ethos, support children and young people, and act as a link between children, parents/guardians and adults involved in the Club.

5. Reporting Concerns
Any person who has a concern regarding the welfare or safety of a child should report the concern without delay in accordance with the Club's safeguarding procedures. A person does not need to be certain that abuse has occurred before raising a concern. Where required, concerns will be reported to Tusla – Child and Family Agency and/or An Garda Síochána in accordance with the Children First Act 2015, Children First National Guidance and Rowing Ireland procedures. The welfare and safety of the child will remain the primary consideration.

6. Recruitment, Garda Vetting and Training
Waterford Boat Club is committed to safe recruitment and selection. Appropriate recruitment procedures, references, role descriptions, induction and Garda vetting will be completed for relevant persons in accordance with Rowing Ireland requirements and applicable legislation. Relevant coaches, Club officers, volunteers, the Club Children's Officer and Designated Liaison Person will undertake the safeguarding training required by Rowing Ireland and Sport Ireland. The Club will maintain appropriate records and ensure refresher training is completed when required.

7. Safe Practice, Communication and Participation
The Club will promote appropriate supervision and safe practice during on-water training, land training, competitions, changing arrangements, transport, trips, overnight stays and other activities. Communications between coaches, volunteers and young people must be appropriate, transparent and consistent with Club and Rowing Ireland policies. The Club will apply appropriate safeguards to social media, electronic communications, photography and video. Children and young people will be encouraged to speak openly, raise concerns, and participate in decisions that affect them. Bullying, harassment, discrimination, intimidation and inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.

8. Implementation and Review
Waterford Boat Club recognises that safeguarding is an ongoing process. The Club Management Committee accepts responsibility for supporting and monitoring the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement, the Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and associated safeguarding procedures. This statement will be reviewed regularly and updated where necessary to reflect changes in legislation, statutory guidance, Rowing Ireland requirements, Sport Ireland guidance, Club activities or identified safeguarding risks.

9. Key Club Contacts and Approval

Designated Liaison Person (DLP)	
Club Children's Officer (CCO)	**Anne Hartery**
DLP Contact Number / Email	
CCO Contact Number / Email	**cco@waterfordboatclub.ie**
Committee Approval Date	**20/10/2026**

Next Review Date	30/9/2027

Declaration: Waterford Boat Club is committed to maintaining a safe, inclusive and child-centred environment in which every child and young person can participate in rowing, develop their skills and enjoy sport. The Club recognises its responsibility to safeguard children and young people from harm and to take appropriate action whenever a safeguarding concern arises.

Signed by Conor McCarthy, President of Waterford Boat Club:

Conor McCarthy Date: 21 OCT 2026

The current names and contact details of the DLP and CCO are displayed on the Club's safeguarding/health and safety noticeboard.