

# MTU Arena Child Safeguarding Policy

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all children and young people who engage with MTU Arena are safe and protected from harm. This policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding and the procedures we follow to uphold child welfare standards in line with Irish legislation.

## 2. Policy Statement

MTU Arena is committed to:

- Providing a safe and welcoming environment for all children and young people.
- Upholding the rights of every child to protection from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Taking a proactive approach to child safeguarding in all sports, fitness, educational, and recreational activities.

## 3. Legal Framework

This policy is based on:

- **Children First Act 2015**
- **Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)**
- **National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012–2016**
- Relevant Sport Ireland and National Governing Body (NGB) codes

## 4. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All MTU Arena staff, coaches, instructors, volunteers, and contractors
- All visiting groups, clubs, schools, or organisations using MTU Arena facilities with children under 18

## 5. Definitions

- **Child:** A person under the age of 18, as per the Children First Act 2015.
- **Safeguarding:** Actions taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.
- **Designated Liaison Person (DLP):** The person appointed to act as the liaison with Tusla and other agencies.

## 6. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Designated Liaison Person (DLP):** [Name/Role], responsible for managing concerns and ensuring procedures are followed.
- **Mandated Persons** (as defined by law): Certain staff, such as coaches or instructors, have legal obligations to report child protection concerns.
- **All MTU Arena Staff and Volunteers:** Must be familiar with this policy, attend safeguarding training, and report concerns immediately.

## 7. Code of Behaviour

All staff, coaches, and volunteers must:

- Treat all children with dignity and respect.
- Avoid one-to-one situations where possible – use open, visible settings.
- Never use inappropriate language, behaviour, or physical contact.
- Report all concerns or disclosures, even if they seem minor.

Children and parents are also expected to follow MTU Arena's Code of Conduct, which is made available at registration and events.

## 8. Recruitment and Vetting

- All relevant staff and volunteers are subject to **Garda Vetting**.
- References are checked and interviews conducted in line with safe recruitment practices.
- Staff are trained in **Safeguarding 1** (and Safeguarding 2 or 3, where applicable).

## 9. Reporting Procedures

If a child discloses abuse or if a staff member has a concern:

1. **Listen** without judgment.
2. **Record** the concern using the MTU Arena Incident Report Form.
3. **Report** immediately to the DLP.
4. The DLP will assess and, if necessary, report to **Tusla** or **An Garda Síochána**.

**In an emergency**, where a child is in immediate danger, contact Gardaí (999) and notify the DLP afterward.

## 10. Training and Education

- All staff and volunteers working with children must complete relevant safeguarding training.
- Ongoing refresher training is provided.
- Information is provided to parents and guardians about child safeguarding at MTU Arena.

## **11. Use of Facilities by External Groups**

- All external organisations using MTU Arena for children's activities must:
  - Have their own Child Safeguarding Statement and policies.
  - Ensure coaches/staff are vetted and trained.
  - Provide a lead contact for safeguarding matters.

## **12. Photography and Media**

- Parental consent must be obtained before photographing or recording children.
- Images will be used only for appropriate purposes and stored securely.
- No identifying details will be published with images.

## **13. Review and Monitoring**

- This policy is reviewed annually or after a significant incident.
- Feedback is sought from staff, parents, and partner organisations.

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**Policy Approved By:** MTU Arena Management

**Date:** [1<sup>st</sup> July 2025]

**Next Review Date:** [1<sup>st</sup> July 2026]

**Designated Liaison Person (DLP):** [Mervyn O'Mahony / Fintan O'Leary]