



Child Safeguarding Statement

Blessington AFC in accordance with the FAI Handbook, FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy, other FAI policies, procedures and our legislative requirements have agreed this Child Safeguarding Statement which is binding on all members.

Blessington AFC is providing sporting activities and opportunities for children and young people through participation in training, matches and camps. The Blessington AFC offers sporting activities to children and young people from the age of 5. Blessington AFC recruits over 60 volunteers with over 800 members. Blessington AFC is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies and procedures, our coaches, and volunteers working with our children and young people, throughout the Association, seek to create a safe and fun environment to participate in their sport.

Principles to Safeguard Children from Harm

This statement recognises that in accordance with legislation and the requirements of FAI Handbook, FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy, other FAI policies and procedures that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. Blessington AFC is established on a number of core principles: ***the needs of the Child, integrity and respect, environment, equality, fair play, welfare, and safety in football.*** These underlying principles underpin our rules, policies, and procedures to ensure that when Children participating in our activities, they do so, as far as is practicable, in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Risk Assessment

In preparing this statement Blessington AFC have completed a Risk Assessment of the potential risk of harm to children when they are participating in any of our games and attending our activities. The risks were reviewed under the following headings: Club and Coaching Practices; Complaints & Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications; and General Risk of Harm. A revised Risk Assessment was undertaken on **29/10/2024**. The table below lists the area of Risk identified and the list of procedures and policies for managing these risks

| Risk Identified | Procedures/Policies in place | QR Code shortcut |
|--|--|------------------|
| Club & Coaching Practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete FAI Garda Vetting prior to coaching • Complete Safeguarding 1 workshop • Event Specific Consent Form • Minimum coaching license of PDP1 to be completed in a suitable timeframe agreed with the club • Media Declaration Form • Mobile Device policy | |
| Complaints & Discipline | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAI Child Welfare & Safeguarding Policy • FAI Concern Complaint Policy • Accident/Incident Reporting Tools | |
| Reporting Procedures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAI Child Welfare & Safeguarding Policy • FAI Concern & Complaint Procedure • Safeguarding 1 training • Coaches Training | |
| Facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAI Child Welfare & Safeguarding Policy • Safeguarding 1 training • Event Specific Consent Form • Media Declaration Form | |
| Recruitment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clubs Recruitment policy • Coaches Team Talk • Garda Vetting prior to coaching • Safeguarding 1 Workshop • Minimum coaching license of PDP1 to be completed in a suitable timeframe agreed with the club | |
| Communications & Social Media | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media Policy • Safeguarding 1 training • Event Specific Consent Form • Media Declaration Form • Coaches Contract • Mobile Device Policy | |
| General Risk of Harm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAI Child Welfare & Safeguarding Policy • Safeguarding 1 training | |

Child Safeguarding Statement

The Blessington AFC Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice).

The Blessington AFC has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- ✓ Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by coaches or volunteers against a child availing of our activities.
- ✓ Procedures for the safe recruitment and selection of coaches and volunteers to work with children in our activities.
- ✓ Procedures for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- ✓ Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- ✓ Procedures for maintaining a list of the persons in the relevant service who are mandated.
- ✓ Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

The Mandated person for the Blessington AFC is Jill Moore as the Child Welfare Officer and Alan Moore as the Designated Liaison Officer.

Blessington AFC recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Blessington AFC is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child welfare and safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while participating in our activities. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 29/10/2025 or as soon as practicable after there has been material change in any matter to which the statement refers. This statement has been published on the Blessington AFC website; www.blessingtonAFC.com and displayed in a prominent place on the premises. It has been provided to all, coaches, volunteers and any other persons involved with the service. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and members of the public if requested.

Date:29/10/2024

For further information on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact relevant person Jill Moore, 0879691679.