

## Irish Pétanque Association Child Protection Policy



The Irish Pétanque Association [IPA] acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and the applicable legal requirements.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:-

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at the affiliated clubs of the IPA in a safe and child centred environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in pétanque or outside of the activity.

The IPA acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people, vulnerable adults or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy the IPA will

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
- ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored

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- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for everyone involved in **the IPA**. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

### Monitoring

The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board or Sports Council
- as a result of any other significant change or event.

### Notes for Guidance

There are four types of maltreatment that are generally recognized as examples of abuse that can apply to children and vulnerable adults:

**physical abuse,**

**sexual abuse,**

**emotional abuse** (psychologic abuse), and

**neglect.**

Should any member of the IPA suspect that any of the above maltreatments are taking place with respect to children [those under 18] or vulnerable adults they should, in the first instance report it to a member of the Club committee, the organiser of the event where the maltreatment is suspected to have taken place or a member of the IPA Council without delay.

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### **Responding, recording and reporting issues of poor practice or abuse.**

A central goal for all involved in children's sport should be to provide a safe, positive and nurturing environment where children can develop and enhance their physical and social skills. Promoting a child-centred ethos should go hand in hand with identifying and eliminating practices that impact negatively on safe and enjoyable participation in children's sport. It is essential that all those involved in youth sport feel confident to challenge poor practice and report possible abusive situations. But the first challenge for anyone considering reporting concerns about abuse is to begin to accept the possibility that it may be happening in the first place.

Approved by the Council of the IPA 31/03/2021