



Itosu-Kai Karatedo Ireland Child Safeguarding Statement (Ver. III)

Child Safeguarding: ensuring safe practice and appropriate responses by coaches and volunteers to concerns about the safety or welfare of children, should these arise. Child safeguarding is about protecting the child from harm, promoting their welfare and in doing so creating an environment which enables children and young people to grow, develop and achieve their full potential.

1. Name of service: Itosu-Kai Karatedo Ireland (IKKI), Karate and Kobudo Association.

2. Nature of service: IKKI is a voluntary organization working since 1976 with adults and approximately the last 30 years with young people and children also. The aims of IKKI are to teach the principles of and promote traditional Itosu-kai Karatedo, provide a safe and secure environment for all our students, provide high quality karate coaching for all participants, ensure participants have positive learning experiences through their training and to encourage and motivate students of all ages to succeed in their karate.

3. List of activities

Arrival of students to the club (many with parents/guardians)

Use of toilet/changing facilities

Training in a large group or small groups or one to one. These activities are always performed on the general floor area and always in sight of all present in the hall.

4. Principles to safeguard children from harm:

The IKKI is committed to safeguarding children and employs the following core principles:

- Children have the right to have fun and be safe in their sporting activities. Coaches/volunteers need to work with them and their parents/guardians to ensure clear boundaries are in place, understood and agreed by all.
- Safeguarding is simply about ensuring best practice guidelines are communicated, understood and accepted as common practice.
- Sport activities are uniquely placed to contribute to safeguarding and the welfare of children. Coaches/volunteers have a responsibility to be a good role model and to be a listening ear if a young person has a concern

Our policy and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, Tusla's Children First –Child Safeguarding Guide 2017: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice & 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary & Post-Primary Schools 2017' and the Children's First Act 2015.

Important resource available to all:

Tusla website: <https://www.tusla.ie/> and : <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/publications-and-forms/>

In order to promote the best practice in children's sport, the IKKI use the "Safe Guidance for Children and Young People in Sport", found at:

https://www.sportireland.ie/Participation/Code_of_Ethics/

and further information on Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities:

[Sport Ireland Policy on Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities.](#)

5. Who to contact

The guiding principles on reporting child abuse or neglect may be summarised as follows:

1. The safety and wellbeing of the child must take priority over concerns about adults against whom an allegation may be made.

2. Reports of concerns should be made without delay to Tusla.

You should always inform Tusla if you have **reasonable grounds for concern** that a child may have been, is being, or is at risk of being abused or neglected. You can report your concern in person, by telephone or in writing — including by email — to the local social work duty service in the area where the child lives. You can find contact details for the Tusla social work teams on the Tusla website (www.tusla.ie) and mandated reporting: [Click Here](#)

Note:

All those involved in sport have a moral duty of care to report child protection concerns in order to help create a safer environment for children. The procedure for reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla is a specified procedure under the Children First Act 2015 (ROI) and should be done online following a discussion with Tusla staff.

It is recommended best practice that any telephone referral is followed up in writing.

Sport organisations have a duty to promote the welfare and safety of children. Staff and volunteers should be alert to the possibility that children with whom they are in contact may be being abused or at risk of being abused. They should know how to recognise and respond to the possibility of abuse or neglect, so as to ensure that the most effective steps are taken to protect a child and to contribute to the ongoing safety of children.

It is not the responsibility of anyone working in a paid or voluntary capacity, or those working in affiliated organisations, to take responsibility or to decide whether or not child abuse is taking place. However there is a responsibility to protect children in order that appropriate agencies can then make enquiries and take any necessary action to protect the young person.

The Designated Liaison person for IKKI is Mr. Leo Mulvany

IKKI recognises that the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement is an ongoing process. IKKI is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and

the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 22nd September 2024

Version IV was signed on the 20th September 2022

The version (III) was signed on the 22nd September 2020nby:

Leo Mulvany, email: leotmulvany@gmail.com or mobile: 0874159858

6. Risk Assessment

In accordance with the Children’s First Act 2015, each IKKI club must carry out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending karate sessions. Below are a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks. This is generic to a degree but give some example of what is important. The list is not exhaustive.

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club	Further action required ...
Lack of coaching	L	Coach education policy	Head Instructor	Proof of qualification to be supplied
Pre and in-competition practice	L	Refereeing courses	All club instructors, coaches	Attendance at relevant refereeing courses
Supervision issues	L	Supervision policy	Head Instructor	Constantly under review
Unauthorised photography & recording activities	M	Photography & use of images policy	Head Instructor	Constantly under review
Behavioural issues	H	Code of Conduct Safeguarding Level 1 (min) Complaints & Disciplinary policy	Head Instructor	Constantly under review
Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	M	Coach education policy Supervision policy	Head Instructor	Constantly under review
Risk of abuse not recognized	H	Key features of the mandatory training in Child Protection Awareness are signs and indicators of abuse and the identification of the occurrence of harm to a child. In addition the HSE e-Learning programme ‘An Introduction to Children First’ is offered to coaches and volunteers. https://childrenfirst.hseland.ie/	All club instructors, coaches and volunteers	Attendance at appropriate courses And up to date listing of all instructors and coaches
Suspected Abuse not reported	M	Key features of the mandatory training is how to Recognise, Report and Record a child protection concern. Safeguarding 1 course is available through the various Sports Partnerships. All	Club Instructors, Coaches. Children’s Officers and Designated Liaison Officer	And up to date listing of all instructors and coaches. New instructors take the appropriate courses and other instructors update their knowledge.

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club	Further action required ...
		Coaches, Children's Officers and Designated Liaison Persons (DLP) must first complete the 3 hour Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness Course. This course educates participants on the implementation of best practice in protecting the welfare of children involved in sport. A person appointed to the Club Children's Officer position in a club must have completed the NEW Club Children's Officer 3 hour workshop.		
No guidance for travelling and away trips	M	Travel/Away trip policy Child Safeguarding Training	Children's officers	Constantly under review. Children's Officers on away trips.
Lack of adherence to misc procedures in Safeguarding policy (i.e. mobile, photography, transport)	M	Safeguarding policy Complaints & disciplinary policy	All club instructors, coaches, athletes, parents/guardian, supporters.	Constantly under review
Not clear who Young Person should talk to or report to	M	Post the names of Club Childrens Officer, Designated Liaison Person (and MP if there is one).	CCO DLP	Communicate in Club Include in Safeguarding Training Posted on club wall and written into other appropriate documentation

Signed by: Leo Mulvany. IKKI Chief Instructor and DLA.

