



First Touch Supplemental Football Coaching Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of service being provided:

First Touch Supplemental Football Coaching.

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

We believe that:

1. Our priority to ensure the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends our service is paramount.
2. Our guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children and young people reflect national policy and legislation and we will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years.

We provide the following services/activities to children and young people:

- One hour paid sessions for small groups on rented AstroTurf outdoor areas.
- Sessions are based around technical improvement and speed & agility.
- Our guiding principles are underpinned by Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and current legislation such as the Children First Act 2015, Child Care Act 1991, Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 and the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012.
- Our guiding principles apply to our coaching staff and volunteers, and students on work placement within our organisation. All staff, volunteers and students must sign up to and abide by these guiding principles and our child safeguarding procedures. We will review our guiding principles and child safeguarding procedures every two years or sooner if necessary due to service issues or changes in legislation or national policy.



3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services including the area of online safety when accessing the internet. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Recruiting Employees	Insisting that a person applying for any post of responsibility within First Touch Supplemental Football Coaching to complete the relevant sports application form, verify qualifications, experience and gaps in employment history; person should be provided with a role descriptor. Obtaining two references in writing, followed up with personal contact with the reference provider (any request for references should only be sought for preferred applicants). Garda vetting process for all incoming volunteers and employees.
2	Education	Safe Guarding course with F.A.I. Shadowing period for new employees on sessions with Declan McMahon. Continuous coaching development with F.A.I. for better session outcomes.
3	Bullying	Bullying is more likely to occur in environments that are highly competitive and promote a 'win at all cost' mentality. At First Touch Supplemental Football Coaching emphasising other aspects of football such as enjoyment, team work, sportsmanship and skill development, especially at junior level. We aim to encourage a supportive environment equipping young players with supportive tools to help other players.



4. Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

- Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service;
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children;
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla;
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available upon request.



5. Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service 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 service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on July, 2024 or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

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Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.

