

Padel Federation of Ireland Safeguarding Guidance

Safeguarding guidance for padel in Ireland, bringing child protection legislation, child welfare expectations, club responsibilities, training routes, and official Irish sport resources into one place.

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Important note

For immediate danger, call 999 or 112. Safeguarding or child welfare concerns connected with Padel Federation of Ireland activity should use the contact route below so they can be directed appropriately.

Contact and reporting

- PFI Child Protection Officer: info@padelfederation.ie
- Use emergency services where someone is in immediate danger
- Use Tusla or An Garda Síochána routes for child welfare concerns where appropriate

Child Protection Legislation

Sport Ireland and Sport NI are committed to ensuring that the best interests of children and young people attending sport services are of paramount importance. Their guiding principles and guidance are underpinned by national policy and legislation in the Republic of Ireland, including Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 and the Children First Act 2015.

In Northern Ireland, the guidance is informed by the Children (NI) Order and Cooperating to Safeguarding Children and Young People 2017. It is also informed by Tusla guidance, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Child Care Act 1991, the Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998, and the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016.

Source: Sport Ireland.

- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017
- Children First Act 2015
- Tusla Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice
- National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016

Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Sport

The aim of Sport Ireland safeguarding guidance is to help sporting bodies create a culture of safety that promotes the welfare of children and young people engaged in sporting activities.

The guidance supports National Governing Bodies to meet child safeguarding and child protection responsibilities in line with policy, legislation, and best practice. It includes guidance on carrying out a risk assessment, developing a Child Safeguarding Statement, and developing and implementing policies and procedures for safeguarding and protecting children and young people.

This guidance is for the benefit of everyone involved in children and young people's sport and supports National Governing Bodies for Sport in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

- Risk assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement preparation
- Policies and procedures for safeguarding and child protection
- Safe participation guidance for children and young people in sport
- Shared guidance for clubs, coaches, volunteers, parents, and governing bodies

Safeguarding Requirements

The Padel Federation of Ireland has adopted and implemented child welfare and safeguarding

principles as part of its approach to club activity, junior participation, coaching, and federation programmes.

Players, parents, guardians, coaches, clubs, volunteers, and relevant adults should read and follow the Code of Conduct and safeguarding expectations that apply to their role or activity.

Club Child Protection Officers are available should any member, participant, parent, guardian, coach, or club require assistance in relation to child protection in a padel club. The Child Protection Officer for the Padel Federation of Ireland can be contacted at info@padelfederation.ie.

- Child welfare is part of safe club and federation activity
- Adults working with children should understand their role and boundaries
- Parents and guardians should know the supervision, communication, and concern routes
- Club and federation safeguarding information should be kept clear and current

Safeguarding Training and Roles

For up-to-date Sport Ireland child safeguarding courses, policies, and requirements, clubs and relevant adults should use the current Sport Ireland safeguarding training information.

Sport Ireland lists Safeguarding 1, Safeguarding 2, and Safeguarding 3 training routes, along with information for Club Children's Officers and Designated Liaison Persons.

- Safeguarding 1 - Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness Workshop
- Safeguarding 2 - Club Children's Officer
- Safeguarding 3 - Designated Liaison Person
- Club Children's Officers (CCO)
- Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Raising a Safeguarding or Child Welfare Concern

A safeguarding concern should be raised through the route that best matches the situation. If there is immediate danger, emergency services should be contacted without delay. Child welfare concerns may need to be reported to Tusla or An Garda Síochána using the relevant statutory route.

Where a concern relates to Padel Federation of Ireland activity, contact the federation with clear factual information so the matter can be directed to the appropriate person or process while respecting privacy and welfare needs.

- Use emergency services for immediate danger
- Use Tusla or An Garda Síochána routes for child welfare concerns where appropriate
- Use the PFI contact route for federation activity, club pathway, coaching, or event concerns
- Keep information factual, relevant, and respectful of privacy

Clubs, Coaches, and Volunteers

Clubs, coaches, and volunteers have a practical role in making padel safe and enjoyable. This includes appropriate supervision, respectful communication, suitable session planning, safe recruitment, Garda vetting where relevant, and awareness of safeguarding and child welfare guidance.

Coaches should also read the dedicated safeguarding for coaches, Garda vetting, first aid, insurance, and coaching standards pages so their preparation matches the role, venue, programme, and participants they work with.

- Age-appropriate coaching and competition environments
- Parent and guardian communication
- Photography, video, online communication, and consent awareness
- Clear concern routes for young people and adults supporting them

Useful official resources

- Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Sport | Sport Ireland:
<https://www.sportireland.ie/ethics/news/safeguarding-guidance-for-children-and-young-people-in-sport>
- Sport Ireland Safeguarding Sport: <https://www.sportireland.ie/ethics/safeguarding-sport>
- Safeguarding Training | Sport Ireland: <https://www.sportireland.ie/ethics/safeguarding-training>
- National Children Officers | Sport Ireland:
<https://www.sportireland.ie/ethics/national-children-officers>
- Tusla Children First: <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/>
- Children First Act 2015: <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/36/enacted/en/html>
- National Vetting Bureau: <https://vetting.garda.ie/>
- Safeguarding for Coaches: <https://padel-ireland.local/safeguarding-for-coaches/>
- Contact Padel Federation Ireland: <https://padel-ireland.local/contact/>