



CHEERSPORT
I R E L A N D

**EVENTS & COMPETITION CHILD
PROTECTION GUIDELINES**

1. Introduction

Cheer Sport Ireland (CSI) is committed to ensuring that all events and competitions provide a safe, protected, and enjoyable environment for children. These guidelines outline mandatory safeguarding procedures for warm-up rooms, performance areas, accreditation zones, spectator areas, and all child-interaction points at CSI-sanctioned events.

2. Purpose

This document ensures that child protection standards are upheld during all CSI competitions, showcases, camps, and large-scale events.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all athletes, coaches, volunteers, event staff, parents/guardians, spectators, vendors, media personnel, and contractors at events sanctioned by CSI.

4. Guiding Principles

- Children's safety and wellbeing are the highest priority.
- Events must be structured to minimise safeguarding risks.
- Only authorised and vetted personnel may access restricted areas.
- Parents must be informed of event protocols and expectations.
- All staff must respond promptly to any safeguarding concern.

5. Event Welfare Team

- All CSI events must include a trained Event Welfare Team (EWT).
- The EWT must include at least one DLP-trained individual.
- Team members must be clearly identifiable (badges/hi-vis).
- The EWT is responsible for responding to safeguarding concerns, monitoring high-risk areas, and supporting athletes.

6. Accreditation & Access Control

- Access to backstage, warm-up, and athlete-only areas must be controlled.
- Only accredited individuals may enter restricted zones.
- Accreditation passes must be displayed at all times.
- Parents may not access athlete-only or warm-up areas unless specifically authorised.
- Spectators must remain in designated public areas.

7. Warm-Up Room Safety

- Warm-up rooms must have adequate vetted supervision.

- Only rostered athletes, coaches, and authorised event staff may enter.
- EWT members must monitor conduct and safety.
- Phones and personal recording devices are prohibited in warm-up areas.
- Stunt and tumbling safety rules must be enforced at all times.

8. Backstage & Holding Areas

- Children must never be left unsupervised backstage.
- Clear pathways must be maintained for safe athlete movement.
- Backstage areas must be monitored by vetted event staff.
- Communication between coaches and event staff must remain open and timely.

9. Athlete Check-In & Out Procedures

- Check-in must be supervised by vetted staff.
- Clubs must provide an accurate athlete roster before arrival.
- Children may only be released to their registered coach or named guardian.
- No child may leave the event early without documented permission.

10. Lost Child / Found Child Procedure

- Event teams must activate CSI's Missing or Found Child Protocol immediately.
- Exit doors may be monitored discreetly until resolution.
- A secure holding location must be designated for found children.
- The EWT must lead all missing-child responses.

11. Changing Area Protocols

- Designated changing areas must be available and supervised.
- Adults must never change with or in front of children.
- Phones/cameras are strictly prohibited in changing rooms.
- Where possible, children should arrive pre-dressed to reduce changing needs.

12. Media, Photography & Livestreaming

- Media personnel must hold CSI-issued accreditation.
- No unauthorised photography or filming is permitted.
- Livestreaming must follow CSI's Livestreaming & Media Policy.
- Spectators may record ONLY from seating areas where allowed.

13. Medical & First Aid Provision

- Events must have qualified first-aid staff onsite.
- Medical stations must be clearly identified.
- Injuries must be documented using CSI incident forms.

- Parents must be informed promptly if their child is injured.

14. Transport, Drop-Off & Collection

- Event entrances must be supervised during peak times.
- Children must not be dropped off without a coach or guardian present.
- Clear signage must direct families to safe entry and exit points.
- Late collection procedures must follow CSI guidelines.

15. Behaviour & Conduct Expectations

- All attendees must follow CSI Codes of Behaviour.
- Bullying, intimidation, or aggressive behaviour is prohibited.
- Event staff may remove any person who compromises child safety.

16. Supervision Ratios at Events

- Clubs must adhere to CSI supervision ratios.
- Children must remain under club supervision except during official performances.
- Two-adult rule applies in all child-interaction zones.

17. Anti-Bullying & Peer Support

- Coaches must monitor team interactions.
- EWT members must intervene in any bullying reports.
- Events should encourage positive peer behaviour and inclusivity.

18. Safeguarding Concern Procedures

- Concerns must be reported immediately to an Event Welfare Team member or DLP.
- Incidents must be documented using CSI safeguarding forms.
- Serious concerns must be escalated to Gardaí or Tusla where required.

19. Non-Compliance

- Individuals violating event safeguarding rules may be removed.
- Clubs may face sanctions for repeated breaches.
- Media personnel violating rules may lose accreditation.

20. Review

This guideline will be reviewed every two years or sooner if required.

21. Approval

This Event & Competition Child Protection Guideline was approved by the Board of Cheer Sport Ireland on: 11/07/2026

Signed:

FIONA COLLUMB, President/Chairperson

JOAN HEAPES, National Children's Officer