



# CHEERSPORT

## I R E L A N D

**Cheer Sport Ireland**

### **Child Safeguarding Statement**

#### **Section 1 – Organisation Information**

Cheer Sport Ireland (CSI) is the Acting Governing Authority for Cheerleading and Performance Cheer in Ireland. CSI oversees, regulates, and supports affiliated member clubs delivering cheerleading activities to children and young people nationwide.

In fulfilling its statutory responsibilities under the Children First Act 2015, CSI ensures that all affiliated clubs, coaches, volunteers, event staff, and associated personnel operate in a manner that protects children from harm and promotes safe, enjoyable participation.

#### Organisation Details:

- **Name:** Irish Cheer Sport Association (operating as Cheer Sport Ireland)
- **Sport:** Cheerleading and Performance Cheer
- **Address:** 140 Lissadyra, Ballygaddy Road, Tuam, Co. Galway
- **Clubs:** 11
- **Members:**

Activities include governance, coach education, competitions, policy development, safeguarding oversight, club compliance, and national representation.

## **Section 2 – Principles to Safeguard Children From Harm**

Cheer Sport Ireland is committed to supporting clubs and coaches in providing the highest standards of safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults. We promote a child centred, inclusive ethos across all affiliated organisations. Cheer Sport Ireland operates in full compliance with the Children First Act 2015, the Children First National Guidance, Tusla requirements, and Sport Ireland's safeguarding guidelines.

Principles guiding our safeguarding practice include:

- Importance of childhood – Cheerleading experiences should protect and value childhood.
- Needs of the child – All decisions prioritise the emotional and physical needs of children.
- Integrity in relationships – Adults must act respectfully and uphold appropriate boundaries.
- Fair Play – Cheer environments must emphasise respect, positivity and encouragement.
- Quality atmosphere & ethos – CSI promotes safe, inclusive, fun team cultures.
- Age-appropriate competition – Competition must be balanced with skill development.
- Equality – All children are valued regardless of background, ability or identity.

## **Section 3 – Written Risk Assessment (Section 11(3)(a))**

Cheer Sport Ireland has conducted a written assessment of potential risks of harm to children as required under Section 11(3)(a) of the Children First Act 2015.

For the purposes of this Risk Assessment, “*harm*” has the meaning assigned in the Children First Act 2015 and includes: assault, ill-treatment, neglect and sexual abuse, as well as any failure to protect a child from such harm.

Risks identified are specific, realistic and directly linked to CSI's activities, including coach education, sanctioned events, club governance, travel and away trips, supervision, photography, social media, and online engagement.

Risk Identified	Procedures in place to manage risk
Risk of harm to a child by a member of staff or volunteer.	Safe Recruitment Policy; Garda Vetting; Codes of Behaviour; Complaints & Disciplinary Policy; Reporting Procedures.
Risk of harm to a child by a visitor, spectator or unauthorised person.	Warm-Up Access & Accreditation Policy; Supervision Policy; venue access controls; event safeguarding protocols.
Risk of harm to a child through bullying, harassment or peer abuse.	Anti-Bullying Policy; Codes of Behaviour; disciplinary procedures.
Risk of harm on outings, day trips or away events (from staff, volunteers, peers or strangers).	CSI Travel & Away Trips Policy; Supervision Policy; Event & Competition Child Protection Guidelines.
Risk of harm through lack of supervision or unsafe coaching practices.	Supervision Policy; Coach Education Requirements; Codes of Behaviour.
Risk of harm through unauthorised photography or recording.	Photography & Use of Images Policy; Event Accreditation Rules.
Risk of harm through inappropriate online contact or social media use.	Communications & Online Safety Policy; Codes of Behaviour.
Risk of harm due to missing or found child incidents.	Missing Child Procedure; Supervision Policy.
Risk of harm due to inadequate safeguarding knowledge or failure to report.	Safeguarding Training (Levels 1–3); Reporting Procedures; Club Safeguarding Compliance Requirements.
Risk of harm through recruitment of unsuitable individuals.	Safe Recruitment Policy; Garda Vetting Procedures; reference checks.

Risk Identified	Procedures in place to manage risk
Risk of harm to a child through spotting, lifting or manual support (including inappropriate, unsafe or misunderstood physical contact).	Codes of Behaviour; Spotting & Progression Framework; Coach Education; Supervision Policy.
Risk of emotional harm to a child during competitions, public performances or high-pressure cheer environments.	Event Welfare Protocols; Coach & Athlete Wellbeing Procedures; Supervision Policy.

#### **Section 4 – Safeguarding Procedures (Section 11(3)(b))**

Cheer Sport Ireland has the following safeguarding procedures in place as required under the Children First Act 2015:

- Procedures for managing allegations or misconduct by staff, volunteers or visitors.
- Procedures for reporting child protection or welfare concerns to Tusla/An Garda Síochána.
- Procedures for responding to disclosures from children or adults.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment, vetting, induction and supervision of staff and volunteers.
- Procedures to ensure the provision of safeguarding training and information.
- Procedures for maintaining a list of mandated persons within the organisation.
- Procedures for ensuring affiliated clubs implement CSI safeguarding and compliance requirements.
- Procedures for appointing a Relevant Person as defined in the Children First Act 2015.

**Relevant Person:** Joan Heapes, National Children’s Officer  
cheersportireland.welfare@gmail.com

## **Section 5 – Implementation**

CSI recognises that safeguarding is an ongoing organisational commitment. CSI will:

- Review this Child Safeguarding Statement at least every 24 months or sooner if required.
- Ensure this statement is displayed prominently and made available to parents, members, Sport Ireland and Tusla.
- Provide this statement to all staff, volunteers, Board members and club officials.
- Monitor compliance across affiliated clubs through safeguarding reviews and governance processes.

### ***Signed on behalf of Cheer Sport Ireland:***

Fiona Collumb – President      **FIONA COLLUMB**      Date: **05/12/2025**

Hayden McGurk – Secretary      **HAYDEN MCGURK**      Date: **05/12/2025**

Joan Heapes – National Children's Officer      **JOAN HEAPES**      Date: **05/12/2025**

Hilton Holian – Finance Office      **HILTON HOLIAN**      Date: **05/12/2025**

**For queries, contact: Joan Heapes – [cheersportireland.welfare@gmail.com](mailto:cheersportireland.welfare@gmail.com)**