



Limerick Celtics Basketball Club Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Limerick Celtics Basketball Club (hereafter called Limerick Celtics) is a Limerick based basketball club. Our main goal is to provide basketball coaching and games to our Celtics boys and girls / men and women who play on our club teams from age under 8 to adult National league and local league levels. Limerick Celtics always puts the welfare of the players first and always ensures a safe environment for all players to play and train.

Limerick Celtics acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice. Limerick Celtics Child Safeguarding documents have been developed in line with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015 and *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)* and Tusla's Child Safeguarding Guide (Edition 2, 2019). This policy should also be considered in conjunction with Basketball Ireland's Risk Assessment, with particular attention to the potential risks that are the Clubs' responsibility.

The policy is widely promoted amongst everyone involved in Limerick Celtics. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

The policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children:

- Have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport at Limerick Celtics in a safe and child centred environment.
- Are protected from abuse whilst participating in basketball training and matches as part of Limerick Celtics.

Limerick Celtics acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy Limerick Celtics will:

- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- Make it compulsory for all our Celtics Coaches and volunteers to attend a Safeguarding Course and be fully Garda vetted prior to taking part in any club training sessions, games or club activities.
- Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
- Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.

- Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- Prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals.
- Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.

Child Protection Risk Assessment

Limerick Celtics takes note of Basketball Ireland's Risk Assessment, particularly those potential risks that must be managed at Club level. In addition to that, Limerick Celtics has carried out an assessment of where risks to child protection may exist while playing with Limerick Celtics. Below is a list of the most significant areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk identified	Procedure in place to manage identified risk
1	Celtics underage players taking part in training sessions with Club Coaches	All Coaches must have completed a Safeguarding course and be Garda Vetted. Celtics must be in possession of the Coaches current Garda Vetting and Safeguarding documentation and this must be reviewed and approved by the Celtics Child Welfare Officer. In addition to the coach, one other adult will be present at all trainings (for girls' training one must be a female).
2	Celtics underage players travelling to League or Cup games or for away training purposes.	Our normal club practice is for players to travel to games with the parents or family members. If players travel need to travel with club coaches or managers the following rules must be adhered to; players must only sit in the back seats. Two coaches or club volunteers must travel in the same car and for all underage girls' teams the requirement is one of these coaches or club volunteers must be female. Coaches and club volunteers are never allowed to travel on their own with players from any club underage team. If teams travel to games on a hired bus that a coach/volunteer: player ratio cannot excel 1:10 with a minimum of 2 female coaches/volunteers required to travel at all times on the bus.
3	Club underage player changing before or after games or training	Coaches can never enter the changing room on their own. Celtics rules clearly specify that two coaches can only enter a changing room once all players are fully clothed. For all girls club teams a female coach or volunteer must be present at all times and must be accompanied.

Monitoring

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. The policy will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the event of changes in legislation and/or government guidance.