



## IGG SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Designated responsible: <i>(Board Committee or Individual person)</i>	Safeguarding Manager		
Overall responsibility: <i>(Committee)</i>	IGG Board		
Effective from:	September 2016		
To be reviewed:	January 2028		
Change Log			
Version	List section numbers changed	Date	Author
2.0	Policy renamed, updated structure (Sections 1–6), scope, definitions and responsibilities.	January 2026	Lisa Challoner Monaghan

*Version numbering: Major Changes 1.0, 2.0; minor changes 1.1, 1.2*

*Change Tracking: All changes recorded and documented either vis track changes or report outlining changes from previous version to the proposed version*

# SAFEGUARDING POLICY

## 1. Purpose and Scope

Safeguarding promotes the welfare of girls, young women, adults at risk and adults, and protects them from harm. This policy sets out how Irish Girl Guides (IGG) ensures a safe and supportive environment for all our members, volunteers and staff.

This policy operates within the framework of IGG's mission statement and supports our aims and objectives in providing a safe environment for our members, while enabling girls and young women to learn skills that will one day help them to be responsible citizens and adults.

This policy is to be applied by all adult members, Unit Helpers and staff within IGG. It outlines the expectations for everyone who works with or supports our youth members, ensuring that safeguarding responsibilities are clearly understood and consistently followed across the organisation.

This policy works alongside *IGG's Safeguarding and Child Protection* booklet, which sets out all safeguarding procedures, good practice and guidance.

## 2. Responsibilities

IGG values its members and has a programme aimed at the development of girls and young women. All aspects of unsociable behaviour, including bullying, harassment and abuse, are unacceptable.

Our Leaders are trained to implement our programme in which the needs of the girl are a priority.

Every adult involved in IGG activities shares responsibility for promoting a safe and supportive environment.

IGG maintains rigorous recruitment and vetting processes to help ensure the safety of all members. We comply with all legislative requirements and continually review and strengthen our safeguarding procedures. Bespoke safeguarding training supports our commitment to creating and maintaining a safe space for everyone involved in IGG activities.

All adult members and staff must understand and agree to abide by *IGG's Safeguarding and Child Protection* booklet.

## 3. Policy Statement

Safeguarding is central to the mission and values of Irish Girl Guides. We are committed to providing an environment where all youth members, adult volunteers and staff feel safe, respected and supported.

Protecting the wellbeing of all who take part in IGG activities is a shared responsibility, and the organisation responds promptly and appropriately whenever concerns are raised. We are equally committed to preventing harm by promoting safe practices across all areas of our work.

We strive to ensure that safeguarding is embedded in all aspects of our work, from programme delivery and adult training to recruitment, vetting and ongoing support. Our procedures are designed to protect children and adults, support volunteers and staff, and uphold the highest standards of safety and care.

#### **4. Definitions**

- Safeguarding: Promoting the welfare of individuals and protecting them from harm.
- Unsociable behaviour: Bullying, harassment, abuse or any behaviour that causes harm.
- Harm: Any act or omission that results in physical, emotional, sexual or psychological injury.
- Reporting Officer: The person appointed by the Safeguarding Manager to manage concerns or allegations.
- Tusla: The Child and Family Agency responsible for child protection and welfare services in Ireland.

#### **5. Procedures and Guidelines**

If allegations or suspicions of abuse arise, adult members, Unit Helpers and staff must notify the Safeguarding Manager in IGG National Office without delay.

The Safeguarding Manager will assign a Reporting Officer immediately.

The Reporting Officer will seek advice from Tusla and act within the guidelines set out by the Department of Children Disability, and Equality.

All reporting procedures, screening processes, and guidelines are outlined in full in *IGG's Safeguarding and Child Protection* booklet.

#### **6. Compliance and Consequences**

If an adult member's, Unit Helper's or staff member's behaviour or conduct is considered by a Commissioner or a Reporting Officer to be inappropriate or causing concern, it is a requirement of IGG that the person in question withdraws from the role, or is withdrawn immediately, pending an investigation.

Failure to comply with this policy or *IGG's Safeguarding and Child Protection* booklet may result in further action in line with IGG procedures.