

# **Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy**

BI Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy	Version 2
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## 1. Introduction & Scope of this policy

Badminton Ireland is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and it is our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of adults at risk of abuse who are unable to protect themselves from harm involved in Badminton Ireland, in accordance with legislation.

Badminton Ireland is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of all individuals over the age of 18 by protecting them from abuse listed in our Glossary of terms. Abuse will not be tolerated in any form. Badminton Ireland recognises that in all matters concerning adults at risk, the welfare and protection of such adults is of paramount importance.

Badminton Ireland will encourage and support partner organisations, including clubs, counties, branches, and sponsors to adopt and demonstrate their commitment to the principles and practice of equality as set out in this policy.

This policy aims to promote a zero-tolerance approach to abuse with regards to adults at risk.

This Policy applies to all people involved in Badminton Ireland and its affiliated bodies.

### 1.1 Glossary of terms

For the purposes of this document, all individuals over the age of 18 are considered adults.

*Adult at risk of abuse* -person aged 18 or over, whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their:

- a) Personal characteristics which may include, but are not limited to, age, disability, special educational needs, illness, mental or physical frailty or impairment of, or disturbance in, the functioning of the mind or brain.

AND/OR

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- b) Life circumstances which may include, but are not limited to, isolation, socio-economic factors and environmental living conditions.

They are considered as a person unable to protect themselves from abuse.

*Abuse* refers to a person suffering loss or damage by a person or group through either financial, material, discriminatory, physical, exploitative or neglectful grounds.

*Capacity* refers to the ability to make a decision at a particular time, for example when under considerable stress. The starting assumption must always be that a person has the capacity to decide unless it can be established that they lack capacity.

*Consent* is a clear indication of a willingness to participate in an activity or to accept a service. An adult at risk may signal consent verbally, by gesture, by willing participation or in writing. Decisions with more serious consequences will require more formal consideration of consent and appropriate steps should be taken to ensure consent is valid. No one can give, or withhold, consent on behalf of another adult unless special provision for purposes has been made for this, usually in law.

*HSE National Safeguarding Office*— Health Service Executive Body in the Republic of Ireland whose core function is to oversee, implement, monitor and evaluate the impact of its safeguarding policy, whilst also coordinating the development of safeguarding training.

*Local Adult Safeguarding Partnerships (LASPs)*: the five LASPs are located within, and accountable to, their respective HSC Trusts. Their role is to implement the Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NIASP) Strategic Plan, policy and operational procedures

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locally. Each LASP has a responsibility to promote all aspects of safeguarding activity in its area and to promote multi-disciplinary, multi-agency and interagency cooperation, including the sharing of learning and best practice. This is the structure in place in Northern Ireland only.

*Self-Neglect* is when a concern has arisen due to the person seriously neglecting his/her own care and welfare and putting him/herself and/or others at serious risk.

*Zero-Tolerance* is the approach which will be taken by Badminton Ireland where an concern is raised in relation to an allegation of abuse being made against an adult at risk of abuse.

## Abbreviations

*SO* –Safeguarding Officer – is the person responsible for safeguarding in any of the Badminton Ireland affiliated bodies.

*DLP*- Designated Liaison Person – is the person responsible in the member organisation for ensuring that all reporting procedures are adhered to with regards to safeguarding persons in their club. The SO in affiliated bodies take on this role as the DLP for that body.

*ROI* – Republic of Ireland

*NI* – Northern Ireland

### 1.1. Guidance and Legislation

- Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership (July 2015) NI only
- Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014
- The Data Protection Act 2018
- Disability Act 2005
- National Vetting Act 2012 to 2016

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- Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at risk of abuse – National Policy and Procedures (2014)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (2007)
- The Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986
- Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act, 2015
- Criminal Justice (Withholding of information on offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act, 2012
- The Equal Status Acts 2000-2015

## 2. The six principles of Safeguarding Adults at Risk

### 2.1. Maximising Potential for Decision-Making

Safeguarding must be built on empowerment: on listening to the voices of vulnerable adults who are at risk, and those who have been harmed. It is about maximising the person's potential

**We must:**

- Talk to the adult if there are concerns- ask them what they want to happen
- Give people choice and control over decisions- get consent wherever possible for any safeguarding referrals. Advice should be sought by the Appropriate External Bodies in such cases (HSE – Republic of Ireland, HSCT – Northern Ireland).

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## 2.2. Prevention

It is better to take actions before harm occurs. Badminton Ireland will seek to ensure that our sport is inclusive and make reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability or impairment, we will also commit to continuous development, monitoring and review. Badminton Ireland and its affiliated bodies shall ensure that all employees, independent contractors and persons working directly with adults at risk have completed the vetting process prior to commencing their role.

### **We must:**

- Create a culture that means adults at risk feel able to discuss issues and know where to go if they have a concern.
- Make sure clear and accessible information is available about abuse and where to go for help.
- Ensure committee members and coaches read this guidance, so they know their roles and responsibilities in protecting adults at risk of abuse.
- Provide training opportunities for volunteers, coaches and administrators in this area.
- Ensure affiliated bodies have access to guidance and support in this area.

## 2.3. Proportionality

The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk of abuse presented. We should identify the risk and proportion the response based on the risk assessment

### **We must:**

- When dealing with abuse situations, think about the risk involved and how this may affect the person involved.

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- Make responses appropriate to the risk presented.
- Respect the person, think about what is best for them and only get involved as much as needed (this refers back to the first principle of maximising decision-making)

## 2.4. Partnership

Local solutions through services working with their communities. Badminton Ireland affiliated bodies have a part to play in preventing, detecting, managing and reporting abuse.

### **We must:**

- Work in partnership with each other and local communities.
- Act appropriately and in line with this policy in preventing, detecting, managing and reporting abuse.
- Have a stand-alone safeguarding adult at risk policy and procedures that include details of the HSE Safeguarding Office / Local Safeguarding Adults Board.
- ensure that everyone in Badminton Ireland and its affiliated bodies know about the policy and procedures

## 2.5. Accountability

Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

### **We must:**

- Understand that safeguarding adults at risk is everybody's business
- Everyone must accept that we are all accountable as individuals and affiliated bodies
- Roles and responsibilities must be clear so that people can see and check how safeguarding is done

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## 2.6. Types of abuse and neglect

### Definitions from the Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures 2016:

*Physical abuse:* Physical abuse is the use of physical force or mistreatment of one person by another which may or may not result in actual physical injury. This may include hitting, pushing, rough handling, exposure to heat or cold, force feeding, improper administration of medication, denial of treatment, misuse or illegal use of restraint and deprivation of liberty.

*Sexual violence and abuse:* Sexual abuse is any behaviour perceived to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted or takes place without consent or understanding. Sexual violence and abuse can take many forms and may include non-contact sexual activities, such as indecent exposure, stalking, grooming, being made to look at or be involved in the production of sexually abusive material, or being made to watch sexual activities. It may involve physical contact, including but not limited to non-consensual penetrative sexual activities or non-penetrative sexual activities, such as intentional touching (known as groping). Sexual violence can be found across all sections of society, irrelevant of gender, age, ability, religion, race, ethnicity, personal circumstances, socio-economic status or sexual orientation.

*Psychological / emotional abuse:* Psychological / emotional abuse is behaviour that is psychologically harmful or inflicts mental distress by threat, humiliation or other verbal/non-verbal conduct. This may include bullying, harassment, threats, humiliation or ridicule, provoking fear of violence, shouting, yelling and swearing, blaming, controlling, intimidation and coercion.

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*Financial abuse:* Financial abuse/material abuse is actual or attempted theft, fraud or burglary. It is the misappropriation or misuse of money, property, benefits, material goods or other asset transactions which the person did not or could not consent to, or which were invalidated by intimidation, coercion or deception. This may include exploitation, embezzlement, withholding pension or benefits or pressure exerted around wills, property or inheritance.

*Institutional abuse:* Institutional abuse is the mistreatment or neglect of an adult by a regime or individuals in settings which adults at risk/who may be at risk partake in Badminton Ireland activity through its affiliated bodies. This can occur in any organisation, within and outside the HSE / HSCT sector. Institutional abuse may occur when the routines, systems and regimes result in poor standards of care, poor practice and behaviours, inflexible regimes and rigid routines which violate the dignity and human rights of the adults and place them at risk of harm. Institutional abuse may occur within a culture that denies, restricts or curtails privacy, dignity, choice and independence. It involves the collective failure of a service provider or an organisation to provide safe and appropriate services, and includes a failure to ensure that the necessary preventative and/or protective measures are in place.

*Neglect:* occurs when a person deliberately withholds, or fails to provide, appropriate and adequate care and support which is required by another adult. It may be through a lack of knowledge or awareness, or through a failure to take reasonable action given the information and facts available to them at the time. It may include physical neglect to the extent that health or well-being is impaired, administering too much or too little medication, failure to provide access to appropriate health or social care, withholding the necessities of life, such as adequate nutrition, heating or clothing, or failure to intervene in situations that are

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dangerous to the person concerned or to others particularly when the person lacks the capacity to assess risk. Neglect can also be an Omission of care.

*Discriminatory Abuse:* is abuse directed at people based on any or some of the following including gender, marital status, family status, ageism, sexual orientation, race, religion, disability or membership of the traveller community.

*Exploitation:* it is the deliberate maltreatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over another person; to take advantage of another person or situation usually, but not always, for personal gain from using them as a commodity. It may manifest itself in many forms including slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, domestic violence and abuse, sexual violence and abuse, or human trafficking.

For Adults at risk in Northern Ireland, each individual case will require a professional Health and Social Care assessment to determine the appropriate response and consider if any underlying factors require a protection response. For example, self-harm may be the manifestation of harm which has been perpetrated by a third party and which the adult feels unable to disclose.

This list of types of harmful conduct is not exhaustive, nor listed here in any order of priority. There are other indicators which should not be ignored. It is also possible that if a person is being harmed in one way, he/ she may very well be experiencing harm in other ways.

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**Some additional contexts through which abuse can occur include the following**

*Domestic violence and abuse:* Domestic violence and abuse is threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on one person by another where they are or have been intimate partners or family members, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation. Domestic violence and abuse is essentially a pattern of behaviour which is characterised by the exercise of control and the misuse of power by one person over another. It is usually frequent and persistent. It can include violence by a son, daughter, mother, father, husband, wife, life partner or any other person who has a close relationship with the victim. It occurs right across society, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnic or religious group, sexual orientation, wealth, disability or geography.

*Human trafficking:* Human trafficking involves the acquisition and movement of people by improper means, such as force, threat or deception, for the purposes of exploiting them. It can take many forms, such as domestic servitude, forced criminality, forced labour, sexual exploitation and organ harvesting. Victims of human trafficking can come from all walks of life; they can be male or female, children or adults, and they may come from migrant or indigenous communities.

*Hate crime:* Hate crime is any incident which constitutes a criminal offence perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice, discrimination or hate towards a person's actual or perceived race, religious belief, sexual orientation, disability, political opinion or gender identity.

*Cyber Bullying:* Cyberbullying occurs when someone repeatedly makes fun of another person online or repeatedly picks on another person through emails or text messages, or uses online forums with the intention of harming, damaging, humiliating or isolating another person. It can be used to carry out many different types of bullying (such as racist bullying, homophobic

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bullying, or bullying related to special educational needs and disabilities) but instead of the perpetrator carrying out the bullying face-to-face, they use technology as a means to do it.

Victims of domestic violence and abuse, sexual violence and abuse, human trafficking and hate crime are regarded as vulnerable adults. There are specific strategies and mechanisms in place designed to meet the particular care and protection needs of these vulnerable adults and to promote access to justice through the criminal justice system. It is essential that there is an interface between these existing justice-led mechanisms and the HSE / HSC Trust adult protection arrangements described in this policy.

### 3.0 Safeguarding Concerns

If you have a safeguarding concern in relation to an adult at risk of abuse, in line with the above listed categories of abuse, please follow these guidelines:

- Ensure the safety of the person at risk. If the adult in question needs immediate medical attention, call the emergency services.
- Stay calm and reassure that you are there to assist them. Do not promise secrecy on the issue.
- You do not need consent to discuss a concern with a Safeguarding Officer.
- Concerns need to be reported to the authorities. Consent from the person affected can be obtained at this point by the authorities who have the power to investigate.
- Listen to what the adult has to say.
- Confidentiality is of the utmost importance in a situation like this.
- Ask the adult what they would like to happen, make sure their views, wishes and choices are voiced and listened to.
- Record all the relevant information, especially what is seen and heard, so that facts can be considered in any investigation

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## 4.0 Reporting Procedures

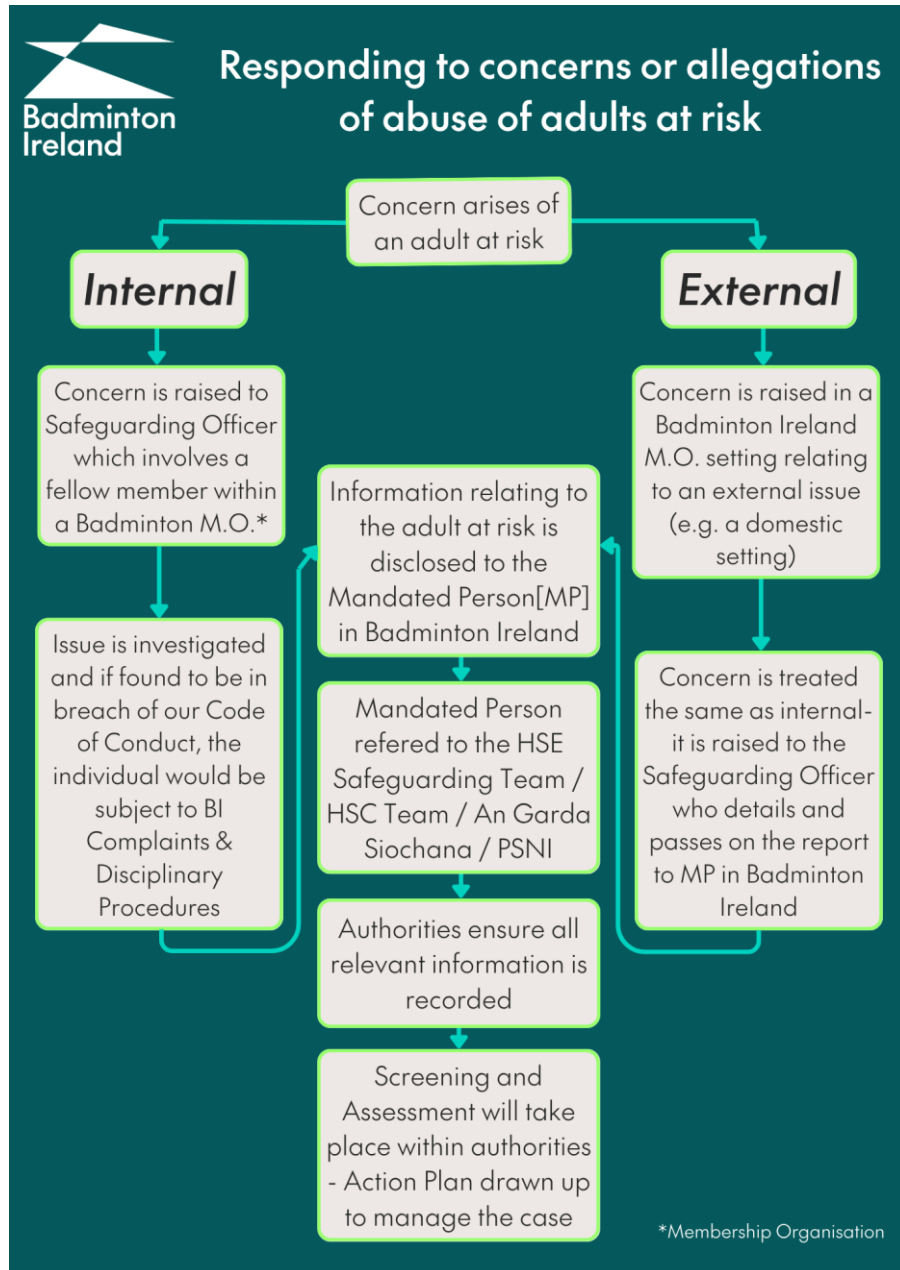


Fig. 4.1 Badminton Ireland Adult at Risk Escalation

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Referring to Figure 4.1, the key element of ensuring that adults are safeguarded appropriately is that we respond to concerns. By non-reporting concerns we have in the case of an adult at risk, we are unable to put measures in place to protect the adult concerned.

By following the procedures of responding to the concern we have with regards to an adult at risk, recording the relevant information pertaining to that situation, and then passing that information on to the authorities, action can be taken to improve the situation for the individual concerned.

Reports of an adult at risk within a Badminton setting should be reported to the Mandated Person in Badminton Ireland by the Club Safeguarding Officer/Relevant Person.

## 5.0 Key Contacts

- Health and Social Care Board  
12-22 Linenhall Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8BS  
028 9536 2810
- HSE National Safeguarding Office  
Email: [safeguarding.socialcare@hse.ie](mailto:safeguarding.socialcare@hse.ie)  
Phone: 061 46 1165
- Badminton Ireland (Mandated Person)  
Orla Fullam-Smith – Governance & EDI  
Manager  
[safeguarding@badmintonireland.com](mailto:safeguarding@badmintonireland.com)  
Phone: 01 839 30 28 / 086 8221857

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## 5.1 Useful Contacts for Information

- Ann Craft Trust (Funded by Sport England to safeguard adults in sport and activity)  
Telephone: 0115 9515400  
Email: [ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk)
- Samaritans (Registered charity aimed at providing support to anyone in emotional distress or at risk of suicide)  
Republic of Ireland: Call Free Phone 116 123  
Northern Ireland: Call Free Phone 116 123  
Branch Information can be found on [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)
- Aware (Support service for anyone who is suffering from depression)  
Telephone: 1800 80 48 48  
Email: [supportmail@aware.ie](mailto:supportmail@aware.ie)
- Pieta House (Centre for the Prevention of Self-Harm or Suicide)  
Telephone: 0818 111126

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