

# Swim Ireland: Our values working with young people

## Swim Ireland – Me and the Water

Swim Ireland exists to encourage participation, develop excellence and regulate our sport. Swim Ireland plans to be acknowledged as at the forefront of Irish Sports Bodies in terms of best practice and standards.

The welfare of athletes is acknowledged as an overarching primary aim throughout Swim Ireland in our Strategic Plan. Within our goals as an organisation we recognise the right of young people to be protected from harm, treated with respect, listened to and have their views taken into consideration in matters that affect them.

1. Education – to become recognised as the leading provider of accredited aquatic qualifications and programmes across the island of Ireland
2. Mass Participation – to Get Ireland Swimming
3. Members' Participation – to further support and develop our aquatic community
4. Performance – to provide an environment that helps our athletes perform to their best and produces Olympic and World medals
5. Leadership – to be an organisation that leads with integrity and seeks to operate to high standards in all areas

## Youth Development Strategy

The Youth Development Strategy supports the development of our athletes from 8 years old to 25 years old valuing young people enjoying their sport, voicing their views and feeling safe.

### Our Young People's Vision:

“We want to participate in a sport that: allows us to enjoy it, helps us learn and develop, enables us to make friends and makes us feel safe and comfortable”

### Our Mission

Our mission is to foster a fun life-long involvement in aquatic sport. To provide an environment where young people have a voice and are heard. It is our aim to provide the safest child-centred environment for young people to participate in sport.

## Our commitment to young people

We are committed to providing an athlete centred environment fully compliant with legislation, policy and good practice standards (or latest updated versions). This Safeguarding Policy 2019 reflects our commitment to establishing a safer environment whilst advocating that young people are listened to and can enjoy their sport.

## Recognising the rights of young people

Swim Ireland Safeguarding Policy 2019 recognises the rights of young people in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989 by incorporating the principles of the UNCRC in our core values and throughout this document.

The main principles of the UNCRC fundamental to this document are:

- that all the rights guaranteed by the UNCRC must be available to all children without discrimination of any kind (Article 2)
- that the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children (Article 3)
- that children's rights must be respected, protected and fulfilled with an environment where they can grow and reach their potential (Article 4)
- that every child has the right to life, survival and development (Article 6)
- that the child's view must be considered and taken into account in all matters affecting him or her (Article 12)
- that every child is properly cared for and protected from harm or mistreatment (Article 19)
- that children should be protected from all forms of exploitation (Articles 34 and 36)

(taken from Children's Rights Alliance website, 2017)