



Strike Force All Star Cheer – Child Safeguarding Statement

This Safeguarding & Club Policy outlines the standards, procedures, and protections implemented by Strike Force All Star Cheer to ensure that all children participating in cheerleading activities are kept safe, supported, and valued. This document is fully aligned with the requirements of Cheer Sport Ireland (CSI) and the Children First legislation in Ireland.

1. Club Information

Club Name: Strike Force All Star Cheer

Owner: Shannon O'Reilly

Affiliation: Member Club of Cheer Sport Ireland (CSI)

Sport: Cheerleading

Training Venue: New Cross College, Cappagh Road, Finglas West, Dublin 11

Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Nicola McHale

Club Children's Officer (CCO): Nicola McHale

2. Safeguarding Commitment

Strike Force All Star Cheer is committed to providing a child-centred, inclusive, safe environment where every athlete is treated with respect, dignity, and fairness. The club adheres fully to CSI's Child Safeguarding Statement, the Children First Act 2015, and all national safeguarding guidance. All adults involved in the club—coaches, volunteers, parents, and committee members—share responsibility for creating a culture where children's welfare is paramount.

3. Safeguarding Structure

The safeguarding structure within Strike Force All Star Cheer ensures that all welfare and protection concerns are dealt with professionally, sensitively, and in line with legal and organisational requirements. The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) manages all child protection concerns, liaises with Tusla and An Garda Síochána, and maintains confidential safeguarding records. The Club Children's Officer (CCO) promotes a child-centred ethos, supports athletes, and ensures all coaches and volunteers follow club policies. All coaches and volunteers must complete Garda vetting, safeguarding training, and follow CSI Codes of Behaviour.

4. Risk Assessment

Strike Force All Star Cheer undertakes regular risk assessments to identify and minimise risks associated with cheerleading training, travel, communication, and club operations. Risks include unsafe coaching practices, inadequate supervision, bullying, unauthorised photography, missing child scenarios, and inappropriate online or in-person communication. Controls include mandatory vetting, supervision ratios, media restrictions, safe skill progressions, behaviour management procedures, and clearly displayed welfare contacts.

5. Club Policies (Aligned with CSI Requirements)

5.1 Child Safeguarding Policy

The club adopts CSI's full Child Safeguarding Policy, which requires safe training environments, appropriate supervision, age-appropriate coaching, mandatory reporting procedures, and child-centred decision-making. Any concern about a child's welfare must be reported to the DLP immediately.

5.2 Codes of Behaviour

Strike Force All Star Cheer adopts CSI Codes of Behaviour for coaches, athletes, parents, volunteers, and staff. These codes require respectful communication, appropriate physical contact, inclusive practices, positive encouragement, and professional boundaries. Breaches may result in disciplinary action.

5.3 Anti-Bullying Policy

The club has zero tolerance for bullying. All forms—verbal, physical, social, exclusion, or cyberbullying—are prohibited. Reports are investigated promptly, recorded factually, and

addressed with appropriate interventions such as behaviour plans, mediation, or sanctions. Support is provided to both the affected athlete and the athlete involved in the behaviour.

5.4 Child Protection Reporting Procedures

All adults in the club must report any reasonable concern regarding a child's safety. Mandated persons must report concerns meeting the threshold of harm directly to Tusla. The DLP ensures reports are recorded, stored securely, and escalated appropriately. Emergency concerns must be reported to An Garda Síochána immediately.

5.5 Garda Vetting & Safe Recruitment

All coaches, volunteers, and committee members in child-facing roles are Garda vetted before starting their role. Identity verification, reference checks, and suitability screening are required. Re-vetting occurs every two years, and no unvetted adult may have unsupervised access to children.

5.6 Supervision, Training Safety & Health and Safety

Training sessions follow CSI supervision ratios and always aim to ensure a minimum of two adults present. Coaches must follow safe skill progressions, use spotting appropriately, and ensure the training environment is hazard-free. Mats and equipment are inspected regularly, and emergency action plans are in place at all sessions.

5.7 Online Safety & Communications

The club follows CSI's communication standards: no one-to-one private messaging with children; parents are included in all communication loops; only approved platforms may be used. Coaches and volunteers must model appropriate digital behaviour, and online bullying is treated the same as in-person bullying.

5.8 Photography, Video & Media

No photography or video recording is permitted in changing areas or warm-up rooms. Consent is required for any use of athlete images. Spectators may only record from designated areas, and no unauthorised livestreaming of children is allowed. Safety and privacy are prioritised at all times.

5.9 Choreography & Music Appropriateness

Choreography must always be age-appropriate, respectful, and supportive of athlete wellbeing. Sexualised movements are strictly prohibited. Music must be free of explicit language and adult

themes, culturally sensitive, and legally licensed. Coaching staff ensure that routine content promotes confidence and safety.

5.10 Events & Competition Child Protection

When attending events, athletes must remain supervised at all times. Access to backstage and warm-up areas is controlled, and only accredited personnel may enter. Missing child protocols, safe check-in and collection procedures, and Event Welfare Team monitoring are enforced to ensure the safety of all children.

5.11 Data Protection & GDPR

Strike Force All Star Cheer follows strict GDPR procedures. Personal data is used only for legitimate purposes, stored securely, and kept only as long as necessary. Safeguarding records are retained until the child turns 25. Members have the right to access, request corrections, and understand how their data is used.

5.12 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

The club is committed to an inclusive environment free from discrimination. All children are treated equally regardless of background, identity, or ability. Coaches are trained to provide adaptations where appropriate, and uniform or participation requirements are designed to ensure all athletes feel safe and comfortable.

5.13 Complaints & Disciplinary Procedures

Members may raise concerns through informal or formal channels. Formal complaints are submitted in writing and investigated impartially. Outcomes may include warnings, behaviour plans, suspensions, or sanctions. All parties are treated fairly and sensitively throughout the process, with a right to appeal.

6. Record Keeping

The club maintains secure physical or digital safeguarding, incident, attendance, and vetting records. Access is restricted to authorised safeguarding personnel. Records are retained according to CSI and GDPR requirements to ensure accountability and transparency.

7. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed every 24 months or earlier if required due to organisational, safeguarding, or legislative changes. Feedback from athletes, parents, volunteers, and coaches is considered during each review.

8. Approval

Approved by: Strike Force All Star Cheer Management Committee

Owner: Shannon O'Reilly

Date: _____

Signatures:

- Owner/Director: Shannon O'Reilly
- Designated Liaison Person (DLP): Nicola McHale
- Club Children's Officer (CCO): Nicola McHale