

# Carlingford Adventure Centre

## Safety Statement 2020

### Introduction

This Safety Statement is a legal document and it illustrates the management and Directors of Carlingford Adventure Centre's commitment to adhere to the requirements set forth in the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989.

This document not only deals with the statutory aspects of the law, but also sets forth the Centres commitment to provide Duty of care to all its clients.

This document approaches the requirements of the Act and will specify specifically the following aspects:

What are the dangers?

The degree of risk to anyone entering the immediate premise or areas of operation used by CAC?

Safety measures set out in specific terms to either eliminate the risks all together or minimise them?

The document will identify resources being spent to eliminate or control the identified hazards. Duties and responsibilities assigned to named persons who are responsible and accountable for performance.

The staff will elect a safety representative who will represent their interests in this regard.

The owners of CAC recognise that as the occupiers of the premises which encompasses the operating area of CAC, that not only our paying clients have a legal right to protection but also all entering the premises for whatever reasons. (Including staff)

The other component of the law is the "Duty of care "responsibility which CAC carries. (This will be explained more comprehensively in a later section of this document)

### Duty of Care

#### (Common Law liability and Negligence)

The Centre recognises its responsibility of Duty of Care towards those who are under our supervision.

The legal principle of "In Loco Parentis "(especially children under 18 years of age) will be applied

There are 4 main aspects to the definition:

- The actions of a careful and prudent parent,
- Taking into account the known propensities of particular children in a particular group,
- Judgement is taken in light of the leader's knowledge, and experience of a certain child or group. This implies that a higher standard or calibre of judgement is expected from a more experienced or qualified leader or instructor.
- Action should be in line with well developed and accepted responsibility.
  - This point highlights the instructor's personal responsibility to ensure that they are current as to the most recent developments as regards safe and accepted practise.

CAC therefore recognises their legal responsibility to not only ensure safe sessions, but all aspects of creating a safe environment for all people who enter our premises for the duration of their visit.

## **Risk Identification**

The process that has been used is to initially do risk identification.

During this process all aspects of CAC 's operation has been scrutinised and the risks have been identified and documented. Risks that have been identified are then called Hazards `.

## **Hazard Assessment**

Once all hazards have been identified, they must be assessed.

This assessment will give an indication of how serious the hazard is, or the degree of inherent risk the hazard poses to the safe operation of the Centre. The assessment is essential because it allows CAC to prioritise each hazard for immediate, short term or longer-term action depending on the degree of risk the hazard poses.

CAC has developed our own grading system to grade the hazards; this system will form an annex to the main document.

## **General**

It must be borne in mind that while every effort is made to identify and minimise or eliminate all risks and hazards, that it is impossible to predict all eventualities.

It is therefore important not to see the CAC Safety Statement as a stand-alone document, but rather in conjunction with the Centre's other operating documents i.e. The Local Operating Procedures, the Child Protection Policy, and Centre's Emergency Procedures.

Other documents are also relevant to the Centre's commitment to creating a safe, fun environment for its clients; these would include documented weekly fire drills, daily smoke alarm inspections, documented client medical log, Incident log and daily session logs

It is also important to note that certain routines (as described in LOPS) are followed by Instructors. This means that on water sessions the clients will always wear helmets, buoyancy aids and wetsuits. The instructors will always set out clearly defined boundaries for the group to operate within, this also includes clearly identifying the hazards that the group need to be aware of and stay clear of.

The Instructor will always exercise good group control and when moving equipment ensures that the group use good manual lifting techniques.

The Instructor will be made aware of any medical conditions that participants in their group may have via the medical information dissemination at the morning briefings, these medical conditions must be read from the Activity Registration Form by the instructor that will be taking the group out on activities. This information will be reported to the Centre Manager on a weekly basis.

During all water sports sessions the LOPS for weather conditions is to be adhered to, and Instructors are to carry the required safety gear to be able to cope with any climatic or medical conditions. All Instructor will be in possession of an in date first aid certificate. Instructors are to be in possession of VHF radios as required.

All Instructors are to be fully aware and familiar with the Centre's emergency policy so that any emergency can be dealt with in an efficient, in a safe manner. (CODE-9)

Other water users who pose a risk will be avoided and incidents reported to Operations and recorded in the Incident log and with the Gardaí if required.

On the land the groups are to be issued adequate PPE and Instructors to have relevant survival gear as stipulated in LOPS. Boundaries are to be clearly stipulated and adequate group control be maintained.

Weather conditions are to be monitored and sessions cancelled as per the Instructors judgement. Radios will be carried, and all Instructors will be aware of the Centre's emergency procedures.

## **COVID – 19**

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted severely on every part of our society and our economy. COVID – 19 is a situation that was unimaginable a few short weeks ago.

In order for us to reopen we have devised a COVID-19 reopening policy. This policy is controlled and guided by advice from the HSE and other government departments.

A full risk assessment has also been implemented to ensure that when we open all of our actions are acceptable and fall within the parameters of government advice.

All of our staff have and will receive Covid-19 retraining prior to returning to work.

Carlingford Adventure Centre is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all its clients and staff.