



University of Limerick SU

Clubs and Societies Safety Statement

Academic Year 2011-2012

1. Introduction

This safety statement is designed to set out the control measures that the club/society has in place to reduce the risk associated with its activities to the minimum that is reasonably practicable.

The document sets out the role of the Club's & Society officers with respect to safety.

It also sets out the standards that the Students Union requires the club/society to adhere to.

The officers have overall responsibility for ensuring safety standards are high and that members are aware of these standards.

Officers should bring this document to the attention of their members and explain to them the basic safety rules that all members must adhere to when participating in club/society activities.

Officers should customise the Safety Statement to their own club/society requirements. If the club or society carries out any hazardous activities these must be identified in writing and an assessment of the risk associated with the activity must be made, i.e. an estimation of the likelihood of something going wrong and the severity of the injury or ill health that may occur if things go wrong. The club/society must then set out what it does to eliminate or minimise the risk. If the club is affiliated to a governing body the safety standards of the governing body must be used.

1.1 Role of the President of the Club/Society

The Presidents role with respect to safety involves the following;

- ensuring that everyone is familiar with the Safety Statement,
- that there are first aiders and first aid equipment available if required,
- that trip leaders are suitably experienced,
- ensuring that novices are well looked after
- that relevant training is provided where necessary,
- and that everyone is aware of the action to be taken in an emergency.

1.2 Role of the club/society member

- Clubs and Societies endeavor to offer their members a safe environment in which to participate in activities. The Officers will, to the best of their abilities, bring to the attention of members the risks associated with the activities. However members are expected to make themselves aware of hazards and to be responsible for their own health and safety.
- They must not jeopardize the health and safety of other members through their own actions.
- Members are required to follow instructions given by Officers or Trip leaders
- Members should attend relevant training courses provided for them.
- They should raise any safety concerns that they have with an Officer or trip leader.
- Members should inform an Officer or trip leader of any relevant medical conditions that might impinge on their ability to participate or that might affect emergency first aid treatment.
- Members are responsible for obtaining as much information as possible about any planned activity, so as to be able to make an informed decision as to whether it is a suitable activity for them.

1.3 Communicating the contents of the Safety Statement

An administration seminar is held on an annual basis. The overall content of the Safety Statement will be dealt with at this seminar. At least one club/society officer must attend the seminar and inform other officers of the content as per the ULSU requirement for Clubs & Societies

2. Reporting of accidents

Accidents that occur as a result of the club/society activities or while a member is participating in the club/society, activities must be investigated, recorded on the SU accident report form ([Appendix 1](#)) and a copy sent to the SU, Clubs & Societies Development Officer or Clubs & Societies Liaison Officer within 5 days of the accident occurring.

Members are insured against personal injury while participating in club/society activities. Non members are not. The SU will deal with claims that may arise. Officers must ensure members are signed up and in full compliance with the Clubs & Societies on-line membership registration process www.registercs.ul.ie

Accidents are defined as incidents where a person is injured to such an extent that they require first aid or other medical treatment (doctor, nurse, hospital visit).

2.1 Serious accidents and fatalities

Serious accidents or fatalities must be reported to the Clubs & Societies Development Officer, Paul Lee as soon as possible. If the C&S Development Officer is not available the General Manager must be notified or the President of the Students' Union or the Clubs & Societies Liaison Officer

Contact details

- Paul Lee, Clubs & Societies Development Officer, (w) 061-213477-(m) 086-0435307
- Philip Mudge, General Manager (w) 061 202325 - (m) 086-0435306
- Derek Daly, UL Student Union President (w) 061 202326 - (m) 086-0435300
- Liz Gabbett, Clubs & Societies Liaison Officer (w) 061-234891 – (m) 086-0435308

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3. First aid

For activities where there is a risk of minor injury an officer of the club/society must be designated to maintain a suitable first aid kit. For activities where there is a higher risk of injury the club should have a designated trained first aider with each group. It is recommended that the following clubs have a trained first aider;

- 1 American Football
- 2 Archery
- 3 Boxing (NEW)
- 4 Drama
- 5 Fencing
- 6 GAA
- 7 Hockey (Ladies)
- 8 Judo
- 9 Karate (Shotokan)
- 10 Kayak
- 11 Krav Maga
- 12 Mountain Bike
- 13 Outdoor Pursuits
- 14 Parkour
- 15 Rugby (Ladies)
- 16 Rugby (Men)
- 17 Rowing
- 18 Sailing
- 19 Skydiving
- 20 Softball
- 21 Soccer
- 22 Sub-Aqua
- 23 Tae Kwon Do
- 24 Trampoline
- 25 Waterpolo
- 26 Windsurfing

Clubs/Societies should contact the Development Officer to arrange to participate in a first aid course. The first aid kit must be brought on trips away. The recommended contents of a travel first aid kit are given below however certain activities may require specialized contents. **If your club/society has specific first aid kit contents requirements please insert them below;**

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Materials	First Aid Travel Kit Contents
Adhesive Plasters	12
Individually wrapped Triangular bandages	2
Safety Pins	2
Large Individually wrapped sterile Unmedicated Wound Dressing (approx. 13x9cms)	1
Individually Wrapped Wipes	8
Paramedic Shears/scissors	1
Pairs of Latex Gloves	1
Additionally, where there is no clear running water, Sterile Eye Wash	1

The designated first aiders are Joey Shaw

The officer in charge of the first aid kit is Hannah Heneghan

First aid kit contents can be purchased from the SU.

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4. Hiring of transport

When hiring minibuses or other vehicles for club/society outings only those named as drivers (with the appropriate drivers license) are insured to drive the vehicle. Other club members must not drive. Where possible only minibuses fitted with seat belts should be hired, check with the hire company before hand.

Travelling abroad

When taking any of the vehicles to mainland Europe the club or society must take out AA 5* European Breakdown Cover

5. Hiring of venues

If a venue (external to UL) is to be used by the club/society for its own activities or for events a club/society officer should ensure that there are sufficient trained security persons at the venue for the duration of the event (if required). The officer must clarify whether the venue will provide these or if they need to be supplied by the club. If there is any doubt about numbers of security the ULSU Ents Committee should be consulted.

The club/society officer should also request the venue manager to sign the declaration set out in the form ([Appendix 2](#)). This form is a fire safety declaration of compliance with the relevant legislation and provides assurance to the club/society officers that the venue is safe from a fire safety perspective. This form is not required when clubs or societies are using conventional venues such as hotel function rooms and nightclubs but is needed when hiring halls, marquees and venues not usually used for large groups.

6. Purchase of services

Where a club/society uses the facilities of a service provider (e.g. windsurfing school, dive centre, outdoor pursuits centre) or equipment belonging to a service provider an officer of the club must ensure that the service provider has public liability insurance. A copy of the certificate of insurance should be obtained by an officer of the club prior to the use of the venue or equipment. A copy of the insurance certificate must be given to the Development Officer Paul Lee.

Ensure that the insurance policy wording does not exclude any of the activities that your club will be participating in. If the service provider cannot provide a certificate then the club should use an alternative service provider.

7. Hiring in equipment to be used on campus

If a club or society is hiring in equipment for use on campus such as bouncy castles or performers such as fire jugglers, the club's officers must first obtain permission from the Student's Union. Once permission is obtained the club/society must get an up-to-date copy of the service provider's insurance certificate. A copy of the insurance certificate must be sent to;

Cliona Donnellan, UL Buildings & Estates
Fax 202416
Phone ext 2496

The equipment/event can only proceed if the event is given the go-ahead by UL's insurers through Cliona Donnellan.

8. Safety checks on equipment owned by the SU & club./society

Equipment purchased by clubs/societies is the property of the SU and must be returned to the SU should the club/society cease to operate.

To ensure the safety of users the SU require club/society officers to carry out visual checks on all equipment whose use could have implications for health and safety, i.e. if the equipment was faulty or in poor condition it may adversely affect the health and safety of users. See Appendix 6

Checks must be carried out at the start of the first term before the equipment is used and the checks must be formally documented. A copy of the visual inspection must be sent to the Development Officer, Paul Lee.

9. Loaning of equipment

Club/Society equipment or equipment belonging to the University must not be loaned to third parties who are not members of the SU club. A club/society member must not borrow equipment for use by third parties even if the club/society member is present or in the group using the equipment.

10. Using electrical equipment

Risks

There are a number of risks associated with electrical equipment.

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- If you damage electrical equipment, for example a cable, then bare live wires may be exposed.
- Apparatus may be wrongly connected so that outside metal parts become live.
- Even equipment which does not have a mains power supply itself can become dangerous. For example, some audio systems have loudspeakers with terminals at dangerous voltages.
- Electrical equipment that overheats can cause fire.

Precautions

- Maintenance, inspection and repair should only be carried out by someone who is suitably qualified.
- Do not rely on other people's equipment being in a safe condition or properly connected. Check before you use it.
- Do not connect or use incompatible items of equipment.
- Use a residual current device (RCD) on the power supply to instruments, audio equipment and any other equipment which club members use. If the RCD trips it is a sign that there is a fault that could be dangerous. Do not ignore the warning. Have it checked and get the fault fixed by a competent person.

11. Training of leaders/instructors and ratio of experienced persons to novices

Where the club is affiliated to a national body, governing body or federation the requirements of that body must be adhered to.

12. Trips in Ireland (day and longer) where club members may be involved in potentially hazardous activities

Club officers must leave contact details with a designated responsible person before setting out on a trip, giving the destination and estimated time of return. The club officer should contact the designated person on return of the club members. In the event that a problem arises the designated person should be instructed to contact the appropriate authorities and the SU. A risk assessment in writing must be produced for trips involving hazardous activities.

13. Foreign Trips (Outside the island of Ireland)

It is MANDATORY to inform the Clubs and Societies Development Officer (Paul.Lee@ul.ie) and the Clubs & Societies Liaison Officer (Liz.Gabbett@ul.ie) in the case of a foreign trip AND the UL Sports Administrator (Neasa.odonnell@ul.ie) with regard to a Club trip. An itinerary is required in advance of all trips outside of the island of Ireland. The itinerary must include

1. Flight/Ferry information, and accommodation phone numbers and a daily schedule of the planned activities
 2. The contact details of the Event coordinators while abroad and the person/people designated to be responsible for First Aid (where possible)
 3. In Case of Emergency (ICE) contact details must be provided by every participant to the Event Co-Coordinator, and provided to the CSDO (and Sports Administrator where applicable) at least a week in advance of the planned trip
- Ensure the Clubs & Societies Travel Insurance Policy Number is brought which is available from CSDO, Clubs & Societies Liaison Officer or ULSU Secretary General in advance of the trip

As per the Health & Safety Statement ensure contact details are available to Event Coordinators for the following

ULSU Clubs and Societies Development Officer	086-0435307
ULSU Secretary General,	086-0435306
ULSU President,	086-0435300
ULSU Clubs & Societies Liaison Officer	086-0435308
AND the UL Sports Administrator (in the case of a Club event)	086-8524938

Additional Foreign Trip checklist information

1. Check if a visa is required and make the necessary arrangements with your members
2. Check if vaccinations are required and make the necessary arrangements with your members
3. Collect passport details for all participants and check if all passports are valid until at least 3 months after the trip. Some countries may require passports to be valid for e.g. 6 months after the planned return date.
4. Certain activities require separate insurance to Clubs & Societies main insurance policy for the activities to be undertaken i.e.

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skydiving, sub-aqua, and the details of these policies must be known to members and CSDO in advance of trips.

5. To avoid unnecessary complications arising from theft and loss of passports while abroad members should have a backup record of their passport either via a photocopy or scanned copy of their passport and that could be left with a family member. In the event of theft or loss this record should assist greatly in and ability to repatriated members

First Aid Criteria:

1. Ensure adequate First Aid Kits and/or supplies will be present.
2. Ensure First Aid Kits are fully stocked.
3. Ensure competent, certified First Aider(s) will be present if required as per Health & Safety Statement.
4. Ensure First Aid incidents are recorded, and an incident report is completed as per the Health & Safety Statement for future reference and risk management. All incident reports must be provided to the CSDO
5. Inform all participants of who is responsible for First Aid for the trip/event.
6. Ensure that in case of emergency contact details for local and/or appropriate emergency services are known to all participants.

Safety Criteria:

1. Ensure adequate Safety Equipment will be present if applicable to the activity.
2. Ensure all Safety Equipment is in good working order.
3. Ensure competent, certified Safety person/people will be present.
4. Ensure only qualified members use specialist equipment
5. Inform all participants of who is responsible for Safety for the trip/event.
6. Perform a risk assessment for the locations of all activities

14. Bullying & Harrassment

Clubs and societies of the Student's Union do not tolerate bullying. Bullying is repeated aggression, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against another person or persons. Isolated incidents of aggressive behaviour, while to be condemned, and should not be described as bullying. Only aggressive behaviour that is systematic and ongoing should be regarded as bullying. Sanctions will be taken against those found to be in breach of the policy. Club or society

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members should contact the Clubs & Societies Development Officer for assistance on this issue. (See Bullying & Harassment Policy [Appendix 4](#))

15. Annual Review of Safety Statement

At the start of the first term the officers of the club/society should review the contents of its own safety statement and ensure that the contents are still relevant to the activities of the society/club.

If the club/society is participating in additional activities that may have safety implications the officers should draw up a policy to state how the club/society is going to minimize the risk associated with those activities. For example if the Windsurfing Club decided to branch out into kite surfing then the additional activity should be dealt with.

The names of those designated to look after first aid kits, etc should be changed. A new copy of the Safety Statement should be produced and dated with the current academic year clearly printed on the cover. A copy of the revised Safety Statement must be given to the Development Officer, Paul Lee. The receipt of funding from the SU is contingent on the receipt of an up-to-date Safety Statement.

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Appendix 1 SU Accident Report Form

SU Accident Report Form

(to be filled on by an officer of the club and the person suffering the injury, copy to be sent to SU as soon as possible)

1. Club/Society:
2. Name of injured person:
3. Student id no./Staff id
4. Term time address
5. Home address
6. Phone no.
7. Date of accident:
8. Location of accident
9. in UL(state where)_____.
- 10.on trip(state where)_____
- 11.State the nature of the injury.
- 12.What first aid was provided?
- 13.Did the patient attend hospital? Yes/No
- 14.State name and address of hospital.
- 15.Date patient attended if not day of accident.
- 16.What treatment was received?

How did accident occur? (to be completed by patient)

- 17.Witness 1 Name

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18.Term Address

19.Home address

20.Phone

21.Witness 1 statement

22.Witness 2 Name

23.Term Address

24.Home address

25.Phone

26.Witness 2 statement

SU Use only

Insurance company notified: Yes/No

Date:

Signed:

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Appendix 2 Fire Safety Declaration of Compliance

Fire Safety Declaration of compliance

I declare on behalf of _____ that the venue is in compliance with Fire Safety in Places of Assembly (Ease of Escape) Regulations, 1985 and with the Code of Practice for the Management of Fire Safety in Places of Assembly. Numbers entering the premises will be controlled by the venue management.

Manager or authorized person

Date __/__/__

Appendix 4 Clubs & Society's Bullying & Harassment Policy

The Clubs and Societies are voluntary social, recreational and leisure clubs that run activities for students and staff of the University of Limerick and other membership's categories to enjoy in their leisure time. We envisage that those in the Club/Society will treat each other with respect and dignity at all times. All members are expected to conduct themselves in appropriate manner at all times and must not engage in any form of bullying or harassment.

All members of the University of Limerick Clubs and Society's must comply with this policy and appropriate measures will be taken against members who disregard this policy and act in an inappropriate manner. Appropriate disciplinary action, including termination of membership, will be taken against any member who violates this policy.

The policy applies to all members of clubs and societies, members of the Student's Union and any other parties involved in the clubs/societies whether in the University of Limerick or off site whilst engaged in the activities of Clubs & Societies. The policy applies to harassment not only by fellow members but also by a customer or other club/society/University contact to which a member might reasonably expect to come into contact within the course of their club/society membership. Bullying / harassment within the clubs and societies will not be tolerated by the University of Limerick Student's Union under any circumstances. This policy provides for prompt, fair, confidential and effective redress for targets of bullying/harassment.

Definitions:

Harassment

Harassment is defined as any act of conduct which is unwelcome and offensive, humiliating or intimidating on a discriminatory ground including spoken words, gestures, or the production, display or circulation of written material or pictures. Harassment in relation to the nine discriminatory grounds (race, religious belief, age, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, membership of the Traveling community, gender and family status), is prohibited within the Clubs and Societies. Harassment of any kind will not be condoned by the Clubs and Societies Executive. Any members who are found to have engaged in harassment on any of the grounds will face disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the Club/Society.

Sexual Harassment

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Sexual Harassment is defined as all unwelcome and sexually, or otherwise on the gender ground, offensive, humiliating or intimidating actions involving acts of physical intimacy, spoken words, gestures or the production, display or circulation of written material or pictures, or requests for sexual favours. Sexual harassment is prohibited by the Clubs and Societies Executive. Any members who are found to have engaged in sexual harassment will face disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion from the Club/Society.

Bullying

Bullying is repeated inappropriate behaviour, direct or indirect, whether verbal, physical or otherwise, conducted by one or more persons against another or others, at the Club/Society and/or in the course of club activities, which could reasonably be regarded as undermining the individual's right to dignity. An isolated incident of the behaviour described in this definition may be an affront to someone's dignity but, as a once off incident, is not considered to be bullying. Bullying can include conduct offensive to a reasonable person, e.g. oral or written slurs, physical contact, gestures, jokes, displaying pictures, flags/emblems, graffiti or other material which state/imply prejudicial attitudes which are offensive to fellow members.

Procedures:

There is both an informal and formal procedure to deal with the issue of bullying/harassment within the clubs and societies. It is our aim that any investigation that takes place will be completed as quickly as possible.

Informal Procedure:

It is often preferable for all concerned that complaints of bullying or harassment are dealt with informally whenever possible. While in no way diminishing the issue or the effects on individuals, an informal approach can often resolve matters more effectively. As a general rule therefore, an attempt should be made to address an allegation of bullying/harassment as informally as possible by means of an agreed informal procedure. The objective of this approach is to resolve the difficulty quickly and effectively, with the minimum of conflict and stress for the individuals.

- a) Any member who believes he or she is being bullied/harassed should explain clearly to the alleged perpetrator(s) that the behaviour in question is unacceptable. In circumstances where the member finds it difficult to approach the alleged perpetrator(s) directly, he or she should seek help and advice, on a strictly confidential basis, from a fellow member of the Club/Society. The fellow club member can be a support for the complainant in

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approaching the alleged perpetrator to explain the reasons they feel they are being bullied or harassed.

It is recognised that it may not always be practical to use the informal procedure, particularly where the harassment / bullying is of a very serious nature.

Formal Procedure:

If an informal approach is inappropriate or if, after the informal stage, the bullying/harassment persist, the following formal procedures should be invoked: -

- a) The complainant should make a formal complaint, in writing, to the Club/Society committee detailing precise details of actual incidents of bullying/harassment; for example, state the name of the alleged perpetrator, the nature of the complaint, dates and times of when the incidents occurred, witnesses, and any action that the complainant may already have taken, if any.
- b) The alleged perpetrator(s) should be notified in writing that an allegation of bullying has been made against them. They should be given a copy of the complainant's statement as soon as is practicable and advised that they shall be afforded a fair opportunity to respond to the allegation(s), within specified time limits. No outcome regarding the complaint will be made until a full and fair investigation has taken place.
- c) Before commencing an investigation, the Club/Society committee may take the decision to exclude the alleged perpetrator from any Club/society activities while the investigation is ongoing if it is deemed appropriate. This in no way implies any wrong doing on the part of the perpetrator but will be taken as a cautionary measure to prevent exacerbating the situation between the complainant and the alleged perpetrator.
- d) The Club/Society committee will appoint two members of the committee who will be tasked with investigating the complaint. They will prepare clear terms of reference which outline the background to the complaint, who should be interviewed through the course of the investigation and the timeline in which to resolve the complaint.

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- e) Meetings will be arranged with the complainant, the alleged perpetrator and any named witnesses. All will be asked to respond to the complaint and detail their version of events. Both parties and witnesses have the right to be accompanied by a representative at all meetings. Meeting notes will be taken and once committed to type must be signed by the relevant person who was interviewed as a true and accurate reflection of the discussion.
- f) Those investigating will prepare a report of their findings and submit it to the Clubs/Societies committee for a final decision. The two committee members who have taken part in the investigation should not make a decision regarding the outcome.
- g) Once a decision has been made, the complainant and the alleged perpetrator must be informed as soon as is practicable.
- h) If the complaint is upheld, the Club/Society committee will instigate the Clubs and Societies Disciplinary Procedures. Actions taken can include expulsion from the Club/Society.
- i) If the complaint is not well found, both parties should be brought together by the Club/Society committee and a mediation process should be implemented to ascertain whether both members can move on and continue to partake in the club/societies activities.
- j) If the complaint is discovered to be malicious or vexatious, the Club/Society committee may instigate the Clubs and Societies disciplinary procedures against the complainant.
- k) Retaliation of any kind against the member for complaining may also constitute bullying/harassment and is a serious disciplinary offence.

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Appeals Process

If either party is unhappy with the outcome of the investigation, both parties have the right to appeal to the Clubs and Societies Executive Committee within 5 working days of the findings being issued. A party, who wishes to appeal the outcome, should put the reason for the appeal in writing and address it to the Student's Union President.

Upon receiving the appeal letter, the Clubs and Societies Executive Committee will appoint two members of the Committee to hear the appeal. They may choose to conduct further investigations or implement a new investigation. A decision regarding the outcome should be taken within ten working days of receiving the appeal.

Statutory Rights:

Members are obliged to exhaust all internal procedures prior to making a complaint to a third party. Using the above complaints procedure, does not affect a member's right to make a complaint under the relevant legislation, i.e. Employment Equality Act 1998, Health and Safety Legislation, or other appropriate industrial relations legislation.

Confidentiality:

All individuals involved in the procedures referred to above should maintain strict confidentiality on the subject. All involved will be reminded of this throughout the investigation process.

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Appendix 6 Equipment Check Form

Equipment Check Form (to be completed for equipment that may pose a health and safety risk if in poor condition, e.g. boats, trailers, protective equipment, harnesses etc)

Club: Taekwon-do

Officer carrying out check: Hannah Heneghan and Paul Heavin

Date check carried out: 22/10/2025

Equipment description	No Item
Shin Guards	13
Belts	49
Medals	40
Placks	10
Head gear	10
Gum Sheilds	10
Power setups	1
Breaking Boards	3
Red Dobak	1
White Dobaks	2
Foot Gear	10

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Hand Pads	9
Body Pads	5
Weighing Scales	2
Wovles Shirts	7

Corrective actions required

Action taken

Signed _____ **Hannah Heneghan** _____

Date actions completed 22/ 10 / 2025

If items are unsafe or pose a risk to health and safety please take them out of circulation and clearly mark on them that they are not to be used.

A copy of this checklist must be sent to the Development Officer, Paul Lee.