



BALLYBOUGHAL GFC

MANAGEMENT OF ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE POLICY

Anybody who represents Ballyboughal GFC has a legal duty of care to children and young people. This means that we have an obligation to provide them with the highest possible standard of care and safety as we promote their well-being and safeguard them from abuse and in doing so we have a responsibility to report allegations or concerns of abuse that may be known to us to the relevant statutory authorities.

It is not necessary for an individual to prove that abuse has occurred when they report such matters. It is the role of the statutory authority to carry out their enquires and assess each case on its own merits. The Associations Mandated Person or the Club Designated Liaison Person may assist an individual in making a report or passing on a concern or if they so wish.

REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR CONCERN/THRESHOLD OF HARM

The reasonable grounds of concern are:

The threshold of harm, at which the DLP or mandated person must report to TUSLA under the Children's First Act 2015 is reached when you know, believe or have reasonable grounds to suspect that

- A child's needs are being neglected, have been neglected or are at risk of being neglected
- That a child has been, is being or is at risk of being ill-treated
- That a child is being, or is at risk of being assaulted

If You have a concern contact the Club DLP

Reasonable grounds for a child protection or welfare concern include:

- Evidence, for example an injury or behaviour, that is consistent with abuse and is unlikely to have been caused in any other way
- Any concern about possible sexual abuse
- Consistent signs that a child is suffering from emotional or physical neglect
- A child saying or indicating by other means that he or she has been abused
- Admission or indication by an adult or a child of an alleged abuse they committed
- An account from a person who saw the child being abused

Reporting child protection concerns to TUSLA

You can report your concern in person, by telephone or in writing to the local social work duty service in the area where the child lives.

Child and Family Agency,

180-189 Lakeshore Drive,

Airside Business Park,

Swords,

Co. Dublin.

01 8708000

CONFIDENTIALITY

It is important that all parties dealing with concerns of allegations of abuse have a clear understanding as to what constitutes Confidentiality and what is permissible in the exchange of information.

- All information regarding concern or assessment of child abuse or neglect should be shared on 'a need to know' basis in the interests of the child
- No undertakings regarding secrecy can be given. Those working with a child and family should make this clear to all parties involved, although they can be assured that all information will be handled in a confidential manner taking full account of legal requirements.
- The provision of information to the statutory agencies for the protection of a child is not a breach of confidentiality or data protection.
- It must be clearly understood that information gathered for one purpose must not be used for another without consulting the person who provided that information.
- All persons involved in a child protection and welfare process (the child, his/her parents/guardians, the alleged offender, his/her family, coaches) should be afforded appropriate, fairness, support and confidentiality at all stages of the procedure
- Information should be stored in a secure place, with limited access internally only by the relevant Designated Persons or Association Mandated Person
- Breaches of confidentiality shall be deemed a serious matter and dealt with accordingly within the GAA and Ladies Gaelic Football Association

ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON

The Club or County Chairperson automatically assumes the role of DLP unless another person is chosen and ratified by the relevant Committee to undertake the role. The DLP should be ratified by their Club or County Committee on an annual basis.

THE DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON SHALL:

- Have knowledge & be committed to the Guidance for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations and Concerns of Abuse', the Code of Behaviour (Underage) and Children First (ROI) Legislation
- Receive child protection and welfare concerns
- Act as a liaison with outside agencies and a resource person to any member who has child protection concerns.
- Be responsible for ensuring that the standard reporting procedure are followed
- Make a formal report to the statutory authorities as required and make a report with the Mandated Person, where requested
- Have a knowledge of categories and indicators of abuse
- Undertake training in relation to child protection
- Be familiar with and able to carry out Gaelic Games/Statutory reporting procedures
- Communicate with parents and/or agencies as appropriate
- Be easily contactable

Mandated Person

The Mandated Person now has a legal and Association role in that if they know, believe or have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child has been harmed, is being harmed, or is at risk of being harmed, they must report that knowledge, belief or suspicion, as the case may be, to the Tusla.

The Mandated Persons in our Gaelic Games Associations may be contacted at:

GAA mandatedperson@gaa.ie

LGFA mandatedperson@lgfa.ie

Child Abuse: NEGLECT, EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL TYPES, SYMPTOMS

NEGLECT

A reasonable concern for the child's welfare would exist when neglect becomes typical of the relationship between the child and the parent. This may become apparent where you see the child over a period of time, or the effects of the neglect may be obvious based on having seen the child once.

FEATURES OF NEGLECT

- Lack of adequate clothing
- Inattention to basic hygiene
- Abandonment or desertion
- Children being left alone without adequate care and supervision
- Malnourishment
- Failure to provide adequate care for the child's medical and developmental needs
- Inadequate living conditions
- Lack of protection and exposure to danger, including moral danger

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional abuse is the systematic emotional or psychological ill-treatment of a child by a caregiver. Once-off occasional difficulties between caregiver and child are not considered emotional abuse. It occurs when a child's basic need for attention, affection, approval and security are not met. It is not easily recognised because its affects are not easily seen. Some indicators may be insecure attachment, unhappiness, low self-esteem, risk taking and aggressive behaviour.

FEATURES OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Rejection
- Lack of comfort and love
- Ongoing family conflicts and violence
- Bullying
- Inappropriate non-physical punishment (locking child in bedroom)
- Lack of proper stimulation (play)
- Persistent criticism, sarcasm, hostility and blaming of the child

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse is when someone deliberately hurts a child physically or puts them at risk of being physically hurt. It may occur as a single incident or as a pattern of events.

Physical Abuse can include the following:

- Physical punishment
- Pinching , biting, choking or hair pulling
- Beating, slapping, hitting or kicking
- Use of excessive force in handling

Protections in law relating to assault now apply to children in the same way as they do to an adult

SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse occurs when a child is used by another for his/her gratification or arousal or for that of others. It includes the child being involved in sexual acts or exposing the child to sexual activity directly or through pornography. Child sexual abuse most commonly occurs within the family including older siblings and extended family.

Physical and behavioural signs may include;

- Bleeding from vagina/anus
- Difficulty/pain in passing urine/faeces
- An infection may occur secondary to sexual abuse
- Noticeable and uncharacteristic change of behaviour
- Hints about sexual activity
- Age-inappropriate understanding of sexual behaviour
- Inappropriate seductive behaviour
- Uncharacteristic sexual play with peers/toys
- Unusual mood change/nightmares/separation anxiety/bed wetting
- Depression/isolation/anger
- Substance abuse
- Self-harm

All signs /indicators need careful assessment relative to the child's circumstances.

Bullying, another form of abuse is dealt with under the Clubs anti bullying policy