

INTRODUCTION: Following the commencement of recent child welfare legislation and the upgrading of our Code of Behaviour (Underage) we wish to inform all Clubs that a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment procedure must now be undertaken by the Gaelic Games Associations in relation to the potential for harm and abuse that could come to children while they are in our care and attending our games and activities. Once this has been completed at Club, County and National levels we are obliged to publically display a Child Safeguarding Statement that outlines the procedures in place that ensure, as far as practicable, that a child participating in our activities is safe from harm.

Where one overall Committee at Club level caters from the promotion of our games at Club level then you are only obliged to complete one risk assessment procedure. Where a Club has more than one Committee, e.g. a GAA Committee, or Camogie or LGFA Committee, then each committee must complete their own risk assessment. However, a joint Child Safeguarding Statement can be issued by the Club thereafter on behalf of all Associations in the Club.

Previous experiences show that discussions on the risk of harm to children in our care inevitably leads to a greater awareness of the child safeguarding measures we undertake in our day-to-day work in the Gaelic Games Associations. Such discussions also draw attention to our child safeguarding policies, the activities we provide and the legislation that is in place to assist us in our roles. Each unit e.g. Club, must now discuss and complete this procedure at Club Executive level and must record, sign and date when this took place and furnish a copy of the completed document to their County Children's Officer.

Carrying out a risk assessment procedure shall now be an annual requirement and while it may be seen as having emerged due to recent legislative requirements our Associations have agreed that this procedure and the follow up displaying of a joint Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Statement shall now become a mandatory requirement for Clubs and Counties on an all-Ireland basis.

As this is the first year for the risk assessment procedure you will note that each column in the following pages contains prepared text. However you may amend the text by agreement at Club level or you may identify additional columns for inclusion under each heading that may be particularly relevant to your Club. A glossary of terms and an explanation of each heading is contained on page 6 of this Risk Assessment document which may assist you when completing this document.

One column, 'Likelihood of it happening L/M/H' remains to be completed. You should discuss this column and identify as a High, Medium or Low risk the likelihood of risk of harm happening if your Club fails to adequately address the risks as contained under each such heading in column 1, on the left hand side of each page. When reviewing this document we are reminded that the risk assessment procedure and the subsequent Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Statement relates to the potential risk of abuse and harm to children when participating in our games and attending our events and not general health and safety risks which shall be covered under your separate H & S policy. Once this risk assessment process has been completed you must display the Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Statement in a prominent position in your premises or where possible in the external facilities you may also use. You may download the Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Statement at <http://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-welfare-and-protection/children-first>.

National Safeguarding Committee 2019

Gaelic Games Associations' – Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment 2019 - CLUBS

The potential risk of harm and abuse of children under each of the headings below is high.	Indicate the likelihood of any of the potential risks of harm occurring by rating them High Medium or Low	Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Who is responsible at Club level?	Further action required ...
CLUB & COACHING PRACTICES	H/M/L			
Club coaches and other personnel with no child safeguarding training	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding Level 1 – Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop 	Children's Officer (CO) Coach Club Committee	Arrange training Seek verification of attendance
Club coaches with no coaching qualification	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coach education policy ▪ Recruitment policy 	Club Committee Coaches	All Coached must have completed development level coaching course.
Relevant Club personnel not vetted/no background checks	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Behaviour Ref: Recruitment Section 	Club Committee Children's Officer	Annual Review of Coaching and Referee Vetting
Poor Practice Inadequate Supervision Lack of supervision ratios	L M L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Behaviour (Underage) Ref: Coaching section ▪ Supervision policy/ratios ▪ Coach education policy ▪ Safeguarding Level 1 	Club Committee	Increased Coach Awareness of ratios required for sessions Assurance of female coach presence for all girls teams' training and matches
Lack of adherence to procedures e.g. use of mobiles, texting, transport rules, photography.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Behaviour Ref: Social Media section 	Coach Children's Officer	Reiteration of club procedures on photography, social media and transport. Put procedures on website and advertise their presence
No guidance on travelling and away trips	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Behaviour Ref: Travelling and away trips sections 	Club Committee and event organisers	Club Procedure has been published on guidance for travelling teams
Lack of adherence with miscellaneous procedures in our safeguarding practices (i.e. mobile, photography, transport)	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding policy ▪ Complaints & disciplinary policy 	Club Committee Children's Officer	Club members informed and continued vigilance and communication with mentors and coaches.

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COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINE				
No awareness of complaints & disciplinary policy or procedures	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy 	Club Executive	Inform club members, mentors and coaches and place club procedures on website.
Complaints not being dealt with appropriately	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy 	Club Executive	Review complaints and application of procedure as they arise
REPORTING PROCEDURES				
No organisational reporting procedures	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy Coach education policy Code of Behaviour Ref: Reporting Child Abuse Concerns Section 	National Safeguarding Committee Mandated Person DLP Club Executive Child Protection Officer	Continue to train new coaches in Safeguarding Training and increase policy awareness.
Lack of knowledge of statutory reporting procedure	L			
Lack of knowledge of procedures	L			
Failure to report concerns or allegations of harm or abuse	L			
National Mandated Person (MP)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations & Concerns of Abuse Code of Behaviour Ref: Reporting Child Abuse Concerns Section 	Central Council National Safeguarding Committee	Mandated Person to be publicised on website. (Already on Child Safeguarding Statement in clubhouse)
- Not appointed	L			
- No knowledge of MP	L			
No Club Designated Liaison Person (DLP) appointed	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations & Concerns of Abuse Code of Behaviour 	Club Executive County DLP National Safeguarding Committee	Publicise identity of DLP
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 	Mandated Person DLP at Club, County and National levels Club Executive	Publicise internal and external reporting procedures on website
Not clear who Young Person (YP) should talk to or report to at Club level	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour Ref: Reporting Child Abuse Concerns 	Club Executive Children's Officer Club DLP	Communicate names of Children's Officer, MP and DLP to all members on club website.

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FACILITIES				
Unauthorised access to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. while in use by children.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour Ref: Supervision policy 	Coaches Club Committee Children's Officer	Increase Coach awareness that children are brought to clubhouse in groups.
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers, warm up areas etc.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour (Underage) 	Coaches Club Committee Children's Officer	Design of toilet area is not ideal for segregation of adult shower area and toilets. This will be rectified in new clubhouse design.
Unauthorised photography, filming or recording	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography policy and use of devices in toilets and showers 	Coaches Club Committee	Policy enforcement in private changing and wet areas
Missing or found child on site	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour (Underage) 	Committees and Persons in charge	Continued vigilance from coaches and committee required.
RECRUITMENT				
Recruitment of inappropriate people	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour Ref: Recruitment Section 	Club Committee Children's Officer	Application form and References Garda vetting
Relevant Club personnel not vetted/no background checks	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour Ref: Recruitment Section 	Club Committee Children's Officer	Continuously reviewed by club committee and Children's officer
No role description or inadequate role descriptions	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour Ref: Recruitment Section 	Club Committee Children's Officer Coaches	Role descriptions for committee and Children's officer to be publicised.
Unqualified people in roles	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour Ref: Recruitment Section Safeguarding 1 	Club Committee Children's Officer Coaching Officer	<i>Qualification for roles confirmed.</i>
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement Training policy 	National Safeguarding Committee Club Committee DLPs Children's Officer	Continued Communication of Child Safeguarding Statement and club policies.

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COMMUNICATIONS				
No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Safeguarding Statement ▪ Code of Behaviour - distribute 	Club Committee DLPs Children's Officer	Child Safeguarding Statement Displayed and Communicated Members sign up to code as part of membership
Unauthorised photography, recording of activities etc.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Behaviour - Ref: Photography, images section ▪ Child Safeguarding Training L1 	Club Committee Children's Officer Team coaches	Enforcement of Club Policy
Inappropriate photography & recording activities	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Behaviour – Ref Photography ,images section ▪ Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 	Committee and persons in charge Children's Officer Team coaches	Enforcement of Club Policy Review on an ongoing basis
Underage players inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at Gaelic Games Association activities	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication section in Code of Behaviour (Underage) ▪ Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 	Committee and persons in charge	Enforcement of Club Policy Review on an ongoing basis
Inappropriate communications with underage players via social media, texting, digital device or other manner	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication section in Code of Behaviour (Underage) ▪ Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 	Club Committee Children's Officer Team coaches	Enforcement of Club Policy Review on an ongoing basis

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GENERAL RISK OF HARM				
Harm not being recognised	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding policies ▪ Child Safeguarding Training 	DLP Children's Officer Mandated Person Team coaches	Child abuse policy written and communicated. Descriptions and examples of different abuse types in club policy
Harm caused by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - child to child - coach to child - member to child - visitor to child 	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding policies ▪ Child Safeguarding Training 	DLPs Children's Officer Mandated Person Team coaches	Continue to implement club policy and be vigilant at all levels of club Code accepted by all members with membership
General behavioural issues	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Behaviour (Underage) 	Team coaches Children's Officers	Disciplinary action will be taken where necessary on a case by case basis.

This Risk Assessment Procedure was discussed at the Club Committee of Ballyboughal GFC on _____ (date)

Club Chairperson:

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Club Children's Officer:

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Glossary of Terms and Explanation of Headings and Terminology

- **Potential risk of harm and abuse to children**
These include concerns, poor practices, failures to implement policy that are classified as areas of potential high risks of harm to children
- **Likelihood of it happening Rate as Low/Medium/High**
Committee should examine the likelihood of any of these risks occurring, how serious the consequences could be and rate them High, Medium, Low
- **Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure**
These are the policies, codes, guidance we have in place that if implemented could alleviate the risks
- **Who is responsible at Club/County/National?**
Who is responsible for ensuring that the relevant policy etc. is implemented?
- **Further action required**
This heading allows us to record how the response may be implemented or if need be how it can be monitored or reviewed and if target dates or completion dates are required to address any issues that arose as part of the Risk Assessment process
- **Coach:** includes coaches/managers/ trainers or others involved in the running of an underage team
- **Committee:** Can refer to Club Executive, Bord na nÓg or Coiste na nÓg, County Committee or Committee in charge
- **Code of Behaviour (Underage):** Also referred to as 'Code' replaces the previous Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport from 1 March 2019
- **Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations & Concerns of Abuse**
The current guidance that directs Clubs and County Committees when dealing with allegations or concerns of abuse. Currently under review.
- **Child Safeguarding Training:** Safeguarding Level 1 – Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop, Safeguarding Level 2 – Children’s Officer Workshop and Safeguarding Level 3 – Designated Liaison Person Workshop
- **Child Safeguarding Statement:** This is an agreed Child Safeguarding Statement from all of the Gaelic Games Associations. Once agreed it can be amended and must be signed by the Children’s Officer. It must be put on display in a prominent position in your premises or where possible in the external facilities you may use in the promotion of our games and activities with children.
- **Children’s Officer:** This Officer, appointed by Club and County Committees has a wide range of responsibilities including ensuring that all aspects of the Code of Behaviour (Underage) are implemented, that those working with children are vetted and have attended child safeguarding training. The Children’s Officers shall be the Association’s relevant persons or first points of contact in respect of the Child Safeguarding Statement
- **Designated Liaison Person:** The DLP is responsible for ensuring that reporting procedures are followed and known at Club level
- **Mandated Person:** The GAA mandated, person who has a legal obligation to report harm of children as per legislation, is Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichíl.
Contact: mandatedperson@gaa.ie.