



# CODE OF BEHAVIOUR (APPENDICES)

THIS GUIDANCE FORMS PART OF  
THE CODE OF BEHAVIOUR (UNDERAGE) &  
CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT



**INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDING**

Iúil 2024

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## CHILD/YOUTH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM TEMPLATE

This template Child/Youth Membership Form outlines the minimum level of information required when registering your child (under 18 yrs. of age) with your Club. It is recommended that membership registration should be completed by using the Foireann registration system.

**(Note: It is advisable that relevant Data Protection regulations and directives relevant to the sharing of sensitive information in your jurisdiction should accompany this form.)**

**Ainm/Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seoladh/Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**Gender:**

I hereby apply to: \_\_\_\_\_ Club (“the Club”) for Membership of the Club and Membership of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael (The Gaelic Athletic Association) (“GAA”) (“Membership”) I subscribe to and undertake to further the aims and objectives of (Association) to abide by its Rules including the **Code of Behaviour (Underage)**, which is available at: <http://gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-safeguarding-and-protection/code-of-behaviour/>

**Sínithe/Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dáta:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent(s)/Guardian(s), on behalf of the above named:-

- We/I consent to the above Application and to undertakings given by the Applicant.
- We/I understand the personal data on this form will be used by the Club and the Association for the contractual purpose of registering (or re-registering) and maintaining the Applicant’s Membership and notification of Club activities such as matches, meetings and Club events.
- We/I understand that the Personal Data will be retained by the Club and the Association for such period as the Applicant’s Membership subsists and for a reasonable period thereafter.
- We/I understand that We/I can resign the Applicant’s Membership by writing to the Club or the Association and their Personal Data will then be erased except where the Club or the Association has a clear justification to retain such Personal Data (e.g. for child safeguarding purposes, insurance, etc).
- We/I understand that the Applicant’s Personal Data will also be used for administrative purposes to maintain their Membership including club and team administration, registrations, teamsheets, referee reports, disciplinary matters, injury reports, transfers, sanctions, permits and for statistical purposes.
- We/I understand that if I do not provide the Applicant’s Personal Data their Membership cannot be registered with the Club and the Association.

**Sínithe/Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Parent/Guardian)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dáta:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Medical Information

Please outline any medical information (i.e. allergies, conditions, medication) which may impact on your child's health, welfare or behaviour while participating in our activities.

- I consent to the processing of the personal medical data as outlined above for the purpose of administering medical assistance to my child if required.
- In the event of illness/injury, I give permission for medical treatment to be administered by a nominated first aider, or by suitably qualified medical practitioners.
- If I cannot be contacted and my child requires emergency hospital treatment, I authorise a qualified medical practitioner to provide emergency treatment or medication.

**Síithe/Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Parent/Guardian)**

**Dáta:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent/Guardian mobile number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the important Data Protection information on the reverse of this form and have given my consent, by ticking the boxes and signing below, for my information to be used as follows (Please tick as appropriate);

- To provide me on my own behalf and on behalf of my child with updates regarding Club activities such as games, training, meetings and Clubs events.
- To provide me with details of Club fundraising activities including, social occasions, ticket sales etc.
- I am aware that my child's photograph or video image may be taken whilst attending or participating in games or activities connected with the Club and I consent to it being used in the promotion of Gaelic Games, print, online/digital and social media mediums of communication.

I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time by writing to the [Club or my Association]. I understand my rights under Data Protection legislation, as outlined on later on this form.

**Síithe/Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Parent/Guardian)**

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dáta:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My contact preferences are as follows:**

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_  **SMS Text message** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Full Member Proposing New Member:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dáta:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Full Member Seconding New Member:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dáta:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**For Official Use only:**

Registered in Central Membership Database on \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Upon election, your membership details will be entered on the Association's membership database in accordance with Rule.

## COACH AND MENTOR APPLICATION FORM

**Surname:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Forename:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Previous name (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Home telephone number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Role applied for:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Child Safeguarding Vetting, Training and Coaching Qualification

Have you completed the vetting process in accordance with Association procedures?

Yes  No

Have you attended Child Safeguarding Training relevant to your role as approved by your Association?

Yes  No

Do you possess a coaching qualification as required by your Association for your role?

Yes  No

### Please outline why you wish to become involved in our Club?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Please give details of any previous involvement in sports including coaching experience and relevant qualifications:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you suffer from any illness or medical condition which may at times affect your ability to work with young people in this role?**

Yes  No

**Is so, please give details:**

\_\_\_\_\_

## COACH AND MENTOR APPLICATION FORM

**Have you ever been asked to terminate your involvement in any Sporting or Community Organisation? (If yes we will contact you in confidence):**

Yes  No

**Please supply the name, address, and a contact telephone number of two people (non-relative), who from personal knowledge are willing to support your application. If you have a previous involvement in a sports organisation one of these two named person (below) should be from that sports organisation**

Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional relationship with Referee \_\_\_\_\_ Professional relationship with Referee \_\_\_\_\_

**Declaration:**

- I confirm that nothing within my personal or professional background may deem me unsuitable For a position which involves working with children/young people in sport.
- I declare that the above information is true and agree abide by The Code Of Behaviour (Underage) working with underage players.
- I agree to abide by the Rules of the Association.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

This Form should be returned to and retained by the Club Secretary or Registrar.

**FOR CLUB USE ONLY**

Checked by phone  Visit  Letter  **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Checked by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

## INCIDENT/ACCIDENT REPORTING FORM

### THIS FORM SHOULD BE USED FOR EACH OCCASION OF:

- Accidental fall/injury
- Aggressive behaviour
- Verbal abuse
- Destruction of equipment or property (or threats of)
- Physical assault (or threats of)

<b>Name of person completing this form:</b>
<b>Role/Position of person completing this form:</b>
<b>Signature of person completing this form:</b>
<b>Date:</b>

### INCIDENT/ACCIDENT

Date and time of incident (incident/accident):
Name/s of person/s involved in the incident, including their roles and their Clubs/ Associations:
What activity was taking place when the incident occurred?
Description of incident:
What action, if any, did Club personnel take during or after the incident?
Witnesses to the incident/accident (include contact details if available):

**REPORTING OF THE INCIDENT TO CLUB/ASSOCIATION**

Incident Reported to:	Date:
How was the incident/accident reported? e.g. using this form, in person, email, phone.	

**FOLLOW UP ACTION**

Description of actions to be taken:
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Signed:	Date:
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**CLUB/ASSOCIATION NOTES ONLY**



## DEFINITIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

### TYPES OF CHILD ABUSE AND HOW THEY MAY BE RECOGNISED

This section is based on the definitions of child abuse that are contained in the Ireland version of the Code of Behaviour (Underage) and the legislative child safeguarding legislation and guidance.

- Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children that directs us in accordance with Irish legislation.

As child safeguarding and welfare legislation may vary from one jurisdiction to another please ensure that the definitions that are outlined here and the accompanying guidance complies with the directives and definitions issued by the relevant authorities in your jurisdiction.

**In this section' and throughout the Code of Behaviour (Underage) 'a child' or 'young person' or 'underage' means a person under the age of 18 years of age, who is not or has not been married**

**(Note: This definition may vary depending on the jurisdiction in which you operate and it is therefore vital at the very outset that the legal age of a child is correctly defined to comply with local legislation.)**

Child abuse can be categorised into four different types: neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. A child may be subjected to one or more forms of abuse at any given time. Abuse and neglect can occur within the family, in the community or in an institutional setting. The abuser may be someone known to the child or a stranger, and can be an adult or another child. In a situation where abuse is alleged to have been carried out by another child, you should consider it a child welfare and protection issue for both children and you should follow child protection procedures for both the victim and the alleged abuser.

The important factor in deciding whether the behaviour is abuse or neglect is the impact of that behaviour on the child rather than the intention of the parent/carer.

The definitions of neglect and abuse presented in this section may not be legal definitions in your jurisdiction. They are intended to describe ways in which a child might experience abuse and how this abuse may be recognised.

#### NEGLECT

Child neglect is the most frequently reported category of abuse, both in Ireland and internationally. Ongoing chronic neglect is recognised as being extremely harmful to the development and well-being of the child and may have serious long-term negative consequences.

Neglect occurs when a child does not receive adequate care or supervision to the extent that the child is harmed physically or developmentally. It is generally defined in terms of an omission of care, where a child's health, development or welfare is impaired by being deprived of food,

## DEFINITIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

clothing, warmth, hygiene, medical care, intellectual stimulation or supervision and safety. Emotional neglect may also lead to the child having attachment difficulties. The extent of the damage to the child's health, development or welfare is influenced by a range of factors. These factors include the extent, if any, of positive influence in the child's life as well as the age of the child and the frequency and consistency of neglect.

Neglect is associated with poverty but not necessarily caused by it. It is strongly linked to parental substance misuse, domestic violence, and parental mental illness and disability.

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

### **The following are features of child neglect:**

- Children being left alone without adequate care and supervision
- Malnourishment, lacking food, unsuitable food or erratic feeding
- Non-organic failure to thrive, i.e. a child not gaining weight due not only to malnutrition but also emotional deprivation
- Failure to provide adequate care for the child's medical and developmental needs, including intellectual stimulation
- Inadequate living conditions – unhygienic conditions, environmental issues, including lack of adequate heating and furniture
- Lack of adequate clothing
- Inattention to basic hygiene
- Lack of protection and exposure to danger, including moral danger, or lack of supervision appropriate to the child's age
- Persistent failure to attend school
- Abandonment or desertion

### **EMOTIONAL ABUSE**

Emotional abuse is the systematic emotional or psychological ill-treatment of a child as part of the overall relationship between a caregiver and a child. Once-off and occasional difficulties between a parent/carer and child are not considered emotional abuse. Abuse occurs when a child's basic need for attention, affection, approval, consistency and security are not met, due to incapacity or indifference from their parent or caregiver. Emotional abuse can also occur when adults responsible for taking care of children are unaware of and unable (for a range of reasons) to meet their children's emotional and developmental needs. Emotional abuse is not easy to recognise because the effects are not easily seen.

A reasonable concern for the child's welfare would exist when the behaviour becomes typical of the relationship between the child and the parent or carer.

## DEFINITIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

### **Emotional abuse may be seen in some of the following ways:**

- Rejection
- Lack of comfort and love
- Lack of attachment
- Lack of proper stimulation (e.g. fun and play)
- Lack of continuity of care (e.g. frequent moves, particularly unplanned)
- Continuous lack of praise and encouragement
- Persistent criticism, sarcasm, hostility or blaming of the child
- Bullying
- Conditional parenting in which care or affection of a child depends on his or her behaviours or actions
- Extreme overprotectiveness
- Inappropriate non-physical punishment (e.g. locking child in bedroom)
- Ongoing family conflicts and family violence
- Seriously inappropriate expectations of a child relative to his/her age and stage of development

There may be no physical signs of emotional abuse unless it occurs with another type of abuse. A child may show signs of emotional abuse through their actions or emotions in several ways. These include insecure attachment, unhappiness, low self-esteem, educational and developmental underachievement, risk taking and aggressive behaviour.

It should be noted that no one indicator is conclusive evidence of emotional abuse. Emotional abuse is more likely to impact negatively on a child where it is persistent over time and where there is a lack of other protective factors.

### **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 incidents. A reasonable concern exists where the child's health and/or development is, may be, or has been damaged as a result of suspected physical abuse.

### **Physical abuse can include the following:**

- Physical punishment
- Beating, slapping, hitting or kicking
- Pushing, shaking or throwing
- Pinching, biting, choking or hair-pulling
- Use of excessive force in handling
- Deliberate poisoning
- Suffocation
- Fabricated/induced illness
- Female genital mutilation

## DEFINITIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

### SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse occurs when a child is used by another person for his or her gratification or arousal, or for that of others. It includes the child being involved in sexual acts (masturbation, fondling, oral or penetrative sex) or exposing the child to sexual activity directly or through pornography.

Child sexual abuse may cover a wide spectrum of abusive activities. It rarely involves just a single incident and in some instances occurs over a number of years. Child sexual abuse most commonly happens within the family, including older siblings and extended family members.

Cases of sexual abuse mainly come to light through disclosure by the child or his or her siblings/friends, from the suspicions of an adult, and/or by physical symptoms.

**It should be remembered that sexual activity involving a young person may be sexual abuse even if the young person concerned does not themselves recognise it as abusive**

#### Examples of child sexual abuse include the following:

Any sexual act intentionally performed in the presence of a child

- An invitation to sexual touching or intentional touching or molesting of a child's body whether by a person or object for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification
- Masturbation in the presence of a child or the involvement of a child in an act of masturbation
- Sexual intercourse with a child, whether oral, vaginal or anal
- Sexual exploitation of a child, which includes:
  - » Inviting, inducing or coercing a child to engage in prostitution or the production of child pornography [for example, exhibition, modelling or posing for the purpose of sexual arousal, gratification or sexual act, including its recording (on film, videotape or other media) or the manipulation, for those purposes, of an image by computer or other means]
  - » Inviting, coercing or inducing a child to participate in, or to observe, any sexual, indecent or obscene act
  - » Showing sexually explicit material to children, which is often a feature of the 'grooming' process by perpetrators of abuse
- Exposing a child to inappropriate or abusive material through information and communication technology
- Consensual sexual activity involving an adult and an underage person

An Garda Síochána will deal with any criminal aspects of a sexual abuse case under the relevant criminal justice legislation. The prosecution of a sexual offence against a child will be considered within the wider objective of child welfare and protection. The safety of the child is paramount and at no stage should a child's safety be compromised because of concern for the integrity of a criminal investigation.

## DEFINITIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

In relation to child sexual abuse, it should be noted that in criminal law the age of consent to sexual intercourse is 17 years for both boys and girls. Any sexual relationship where one or both parties are under the age of 17 is illegal. However, it may not necessarily be regarded as child sexual abuse (Note: The age of consent may differ in your jurisdiction).

### **BULLYING**

It is recognised that bullying affects the lives of an increasing number of children and can be the cause of genuine concerns about a child's welfare.

Bullying can be defined as repeated aggression – whether it is verbal, psychological or physical – that is conducted by an individual or group against others. It is behaviour that is intentionally aggravating and intimidating, and occurs mainly among children in social environments such as schools. It includes behaviours such as physical aggression, cyberbullying, damage to property, intimidation, isolation/exclusion, name calling, malicious gossip and extortion. Bullying can also take the form of abuse based on gender identity, sexual preference, race, ethnicity and religious factors. With developments in modern technology, children can also be the victims of non-contact bullying, via mobile phones, the internet and other personal devices.

While bullying can happen to any child, some may be more vulnerable. These include: children with disabilities or special educational needs; those from ethnic minority and migrant groups; from the Traveller community; lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children and those perceived to be LGBT; and children of minority religious faiths.

There can be an increased vulnerability to bullying among children with special educational needs. This is particularly so among those who do not understand social cues and/or have difficulty communicating. Some children with complex needs may lack understanding of social situations and therefore trust everyone implicitly. Such children may be more vulnerable because they do not have the same social skills or capacity as others to recognise and defend themselves against bullying behaviour.

Please note that Section 12 of this Code of Behaviour titled Dealing with Bullying in your Club includes an Anti-Bullying statement and examines how to be proactive about the threat of bullying or how to address such matters should they arise.

## REPORTED ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE FORM – INTERNAL REPORTING FORM

While this document should be forwarded in the first instance to the National Designated Liaison Person, and may be used for internal Association purposes, please be aware that the document may also be required by the relevant statutory authorities should they wish to investigate this matter further. The contents of this form should not be shared with any other person, except with the prior knowledge and permission of the National DLP.

Club:	
County:	
Club Designated Liaison Person:	
County Designated Liaison Person:	
Child's name:	
Child's address:	
Parent/Guardian Name:	
Child's date of birth:	
Date and time of any incident:	
What was observed or reported and by whom:	
Exact details of what was reported to the Club, County, Provincial	
Designated Liaison Person or other Association member:	

## GAELIC GAMES INTERNAL REPORTING OF ABUSE FORM

Designated Liaison Person Informed;	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Name:
(Please state if Club, County, Provincial or National Designated Liaison Person has been informed)		
Decision taken by Club Designated Liaison Person and reasons for decision taken:		
This report has been forwarded to:		
Date and time:		
Action taken so far:		

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This form should be forwarded as a matter of urgency to the Associations National Designated Liaison Person (see page 23).

Guidance for Dealing with & Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse:

<https://gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/n5hsvzyl3eb5kbrfbyfe.pdf>

The contents of this report should not be shared with anyone other than those who need to know.

Should it be necessary please use additional pages to complete this form accompanied by any other relevant documentation.

## SAFEGUARDING TRAINING POLICY FOR GAELIC GAMES

This policy is part of the Safeguarding Statement for Gaelic Games under the *Children First Act 2015 (Ireland)*, *Children's First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 (Ireland)*, the *Children (NI) Order 1995*, *Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy and Procedures and Practice* and as required by our Association Rules (Rail 1.11 T.O. 2024).

It is highlighted in Section 11(3) Children First (Ireland) as being mandatory and is required for whatever the level of child safeguarding engagement one has in the Association. While we previously maintained this level of training as part of our good practice standards, and included it as part of basic coaching qualification requirements, safeguarding training is now mandatory in law. A list of typical roles to attend training appropriate to their role is included at the end of this policy.

Different levels of Child Safeguarding Training (see below) are now in place in Gaelic Games. Attendance at any of the workshops obviously depends on the role an individual has in any of our Associations. Training is delivered in workshop format and all workshops are of three hours duration unless specified otherwise below.

This policy sets out the accepted Safeguarding Workshops for all Gaelic Games Associations together with any specific requirements for attendance and renewal of certification.

### Renewing Safeguarding certificates

Safeguarding training requires renewal every 3 years unless specified below.

**N.B.** If you do not hold a \*valid safeguarding training certificate, you cannot continue in your role until you refresh your training.

The Club & individual are both responsible to ensure that appropriate training has been completed and is valid.

\*Valid certificate refers to a Gaelic Games certificate issued in respect of attendance at a Child Protection in Sport (Safeguarding 1) programme or its equivalent as recognised in your jurisdiction. Units are required to notify the Child Safeguarding Committee if an equivalent certification is being endorsed within the Unit to confirm that it meets the necessary training standards for individuals working with children in the Gaelic Games community.

All Safeguarding certificates 1,2 and 3, are valid for a maximum of three years.



## ROLES THAT REQUIRE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Role	Safeguarding 1 Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop)	Safeguarding 1 E-learning Module (refresher only)	Safeguarding 2 (Children's Officer Workshop)	Safeguarding 3 (Designated Liaison Person Workshop)	Cul Camp Assistant	Referees Workshop
Team Management & Backroom	✓	✓				
Committee Member	✓	✓				
Designated Liaison Person/ Deputy DLP/ Chairperson	✓	✓	✓ (optional)	✓		
Club Children's Officer	✓	✓	✓	✓ (optional)		
Staff	✓	✓				
Mandated Person	✓	✓		✓		
Scor/Cultural	✓	✓				
Code of Behaviour Hearings Committee	✓	✓				
First Aiders	✓	✓				
Other Volunteers	✓ (optional)					
Parent	✓ (optional)					
Referee						✓
Cul Camp Assistant					✓	

## GAELIC GAMES ACCEPTED WORKSHOPS

### GAELIC GAMES SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOPS ARE OUTLINED AS FOLLOWS

- Safeguarding 1 – Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop (attending face to face workshop with qualified Gaelic Games tutor or online training at the discretion of the Child Safeguarding Committee )

#### Outcomes from Safeguarding 1

- Implement best practice in protecting the welfare of participants through our Code of Behaviour (underage)
- Create a child-centred environment within the Club
- List categories of abuse and indicators associated with abuse
- Make a report to the appropriate Statutory Authority
- Make a report to a Designated Liaison Person, and or Association's Mandated Person

**Certification validation period** = within a 3 year period

**Prerequisite:** Participants must be nominated by the club to attend the training. Any participant aged 16-18 years of age must submit a parental consent form prior to attending the workshop

**Renewal:** Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 certificate may be renewed by completing;

Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 (face to face workshop with qualified Gaelic Games tutor)

**Or**

Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher (e-learning module – see next)

### SAFEGUARDING 1 ONLINE REFRESHER (E-LEARNING MODULE)

**Prerequisite:** Valid Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 certificate or a Safeguarding 1 Sport Ireland or Sport Northern Ireland certificate

**Certification Validation period** = within a 3 year period

**Renewal:** Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher certificate may only be renewed by attendance at a Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 workshop

Link for e-learning module;

<https://learning.gaa.ie/safeguardingrefresher>

# SAFEGUARDING TRAINING POLICY FOR GAELIC GAMES

**ADVANCED SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOPS – ROLE SPECIFIC ARE OUTLINED AS FOLLOWS;**

## **SAFEGUARDING 2 (CLUB CHILDREN'S OFFICER WORKSHOP – FACE TO FACE WITH QUALIFIED GAELIC GAMES TUTOR)**

### **Outcomes from Safeguarding 2;**

- Implement best practice in protecting the welfare of underage players
- Create a child-centred environment within the club
- Understanding and awareness of Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Structures
- Reflect on the Club Children's Officer role & develop an action plan
- Understand how to communicate with young people
- Deal with Code of Behaviour (Underage), breaches and manage Safeguarding issues

**Prerequisite:** Valid Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1/Safeguarding 1 Refresher certificate

**Validation period** = 3 Years

**Renewal:** Safeguarding 2 certificate may only be renewed by attendance at Gaelic Games Safeguarding 2 CCO face to face workshop with qualified Gaelic Games tutor).

## **SAFEGUARDING 3 (DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON WORKSHOP – FACE TO FACE WITH QUALIFIED GAELIC GAMES TUTOR)**

### **Outcomes of Safeguarding 3;**

- Awareness of Legislation
- Understanding and awareness of Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Structures
- Understanding of your role as Designated Liaison Person
- Understanding of dealing with Allegations & Concerns of Abuse
- Understanding and awareness of communications with Parents/Agencies as appropriate
- Understanding and awareness of reporting Procedures

**Prerequisite:** Valid Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 or valid Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 Refresher certificate

**Certificate Validation period** = within a 3 year period

**Renewal:** Safeguarding 3 may only be renewed by attendance at Gaelic Games Safeguarding 3 (face to face workshop with qualified Gaelic Games tutor)

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

### CÚL CAMP ASSISTANT SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

**Prerequisite:** Nil

**Validation period** = 1 year

**Mandatory attendees:** person appointed to role of Cúl Camp Assistant.

**Renewal:** If in the role of Camp Assistant in a different calendar year, the workshop must be repeated

**N.B.** This programme does not replace Safeguarding 1 (i.e. if a Cúl Camp Assistant becomes a Coach working with children in any of our Associations S1 must be completed)

### REFEREE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

**Prerequisite:** Nil

**Duration of Workshop:** It is a module built in as part of training for referees

**Expected attendees:** any person taking on the role of a referee (excluding young whistlers who are under 16)

**Renewal:** N/A

**Footnotes:** Notwithstanding the mandatory requirement on participants to attend the Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 workshop.

1. It is the responsibility of the individual and club to ensure that anyone working with, or who has interaction with, or who is involved in the planning/administration of activities or events with children and young people in our Associations, holds a valid Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 certificate.
2. If a member of any Gaelic Games Association presents a certificate of attendance from a Child Safeguarding workshop relevant to your jurisdiction, please contact the [nationalchildrenofficer@gaa.ie](mailto:nationalchildrenofficer@gaa.ie). They will coordinate with the Child Safeguarding Committee on your behalf to verify that the training meets the required standards for individuals working with children.
3. Our Children's Officers and our Designated Liaison Persons in our three Associations are required to attend the relevant Gaelic Games workshop in order to receive information specific to their role as Gaelic Games Children's Officers and DLPs in our Associations and in order to be fully appraised on our own Gaelic Games safeguarding policies or practices, or our reporting procedures and our Code structures.

Should a Gaelic Games Children's Officer or Designated Liaison Person present with a certificate of attendance from an LSP or a Sports NGB Safeguarding 2 (Children's Officer) or Safeguarding 3 (DLP) workshop, that is within the three years recognition period, and the individual has yet to attend the Gaelic Games Associations S2 or S3 workshop, their Club shall accept this certificate and permit the relevant Officer to carry out their role as per organisational requirements.

Children's Officers and or Designated Liaison Persons who present with a S2/S3 certificate of attendance from an LSP or a Sports NGB shall subsequently be required to attend a Gaelic Games Associations Safeguarding 2 or Safeguarding 3 workshop by agreement with their Club Executive.

4. Validation period commences from the date of workshop completion/date of certificate.

**This Gaelic Athletic Association’s Vetting Policy shall be reviewed annually by the Child Safeguarding Committee or at any other time as may be deemed necessary.**

## INTRODUCTION

The GAA provides a vetting or criminal background check for any of our members who may be working in a role of responsibility with \*children or \*\*vulnerable persons.

The GAA Vetting Policy also applies to our colleagues in Rounder’s, Handball and Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie. By joint agreement our vetting services and the conditions of our vetting policy apply to the members of these Associations. We do not provide a vetting service for members of the public but where a non-member has been invited to provide a coaching or training role to under 18 yr. olds in the GAA they may avail of our vetting services.

Inter organisational vetting agreements may be ratified by the GAA with others, as deemed appropriate.

### What is Vetting?

Vetting or a criminal background check is a service conducted in respect of any person who is carrying out work or activity, a necessary and regular part of which consists mainly of the person having access to, or contact with, children or vulnerable persons. Vetting is carried out with the permission of the applicant by a registered organisation.

**For the purpose of the GAA Vetting Policy the following definitions shall apply:**

**\*Definition of a child:** “a person under the age of 18 years, excluding a person who is or has been married”

**\*\*Vulnerable persons** means a person, other than a child, who —

- (a) is suffering from a disorder of the mind, whether as a result of mental illness or dementia
- (b) has an intellectual disability,
- (c) is suffering from a physical impairment, whether as a result of injury, illness or age, or
- (d) has a physical disability which is of such a nature or degree—
  - (i) as to restrict the capacity of the person to guard himself or herself against harm by another person, or
  - (ii) that results in the person requiring assistance with the activities of daily living including dressing, eating, walking, washing and bathing

**Who is required to be vetted or Police background check in the GAA?**

Responsibility has been placed on each organisation to determine who should be vetted.

GAA members who ‘undertake relevant work’ or work in a ‘regulated position’ with children or vulnerable persons the GAA shall vet non-members if they are required to fulfil any such roles.

Such roles, also referred to as ‘relevant work or regulated activity’, include the following but are not exclusive to these roles:

- Coach or Manager with players 18 years and under
- Cúl Camp Coaching children 18 and under
- Caretaker in care and supervision of children
- Chaperone working with children
- Supervisor working with children or vulnerable persons
- Mentoring players 18 years and under
- First aider providing treatment to children and vulnerable adults
- Artane Band Tutor working with under 18s
- Host Family Child Accommodation
- Match Official in care and supervision of children
- Physiotherapist providing treatment to children and vulnerable adults
- Scór tutor working with under 18s
- Club or County Childrens Officer
- Photographer of childrens games
- Camp Assistant with children under 18

**Vetting or Police background check decision making**

The vetting process is but one of many recruitment considerations undertaken when a person is being considered for a role of responsibility or regulated role with children and vulnerable persons in the GAA. (See Code of Behaviour (Underage)).

**Vetting or Police background check refusals**

Should consideration be given to refusing an application processed the matter is discussed directly with the applicant who may appeal any such decision, to an independent Appeals Panel, and no discussion shall take place with the applicant’s Club without their permission or until all processes relating to the application have been exhausted, including appeals. Individuals may appeal to the Code of Behaviour (Underage)/Code of Conduct Appeals Panel at [cwappeals@gaa.ie](mailto:cwappeals@gaa.ie) within 7 days of the decision being made. Decisions made by statutory authorities in relation to vetting may not be appealed to the GAA

The decision to reject or accept a vetting application is not made by the applicant’s Club or by a Committee of the Club but made by the GAA vetting authorities and/or the statutory or vetting authority in your jurisdiction.

**Data Protection and Storage**

(Note: It is advisable that relevant Data Protection regulations and directives relevant to the sharing of sensitive information in your jurisdiction should accompany this form.)

**Break of service**

Any person, previously vetted by the GAA, but who for whatever reason may have ceased their regulated activity or work with children and or vulnerable persons in the GAA, LGFA or Camogie Association for a period of more than one year, shall be required to be re-vetted prior to commencing or re-commencing any regulated activity or work with children and or vulnerable persons in our Associations.

**Collating information on who is vetted in the GAA**

For legal purposes, and to also ensure compliance with GAA rules, each unit of the Association must be in a position to identify if those selected to work with children are suitably vetted.

**Re-vetting**

Vetting or Police background check in the Gaelic Games Association is for a period of three years after the date of issue or if replaced by an updated vetting or background check received following a re-vetting within this time period. (Note: The time frame for vetting may be different in your jurisdiction).

This Code of Behaviour (Underage) addresses the minimum levels of behaviour, practice and conduct required from our Young Players, Coaches, Officials, Managers, Supporters, Referees, Parents/Guardians and Clubs.

[www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-safeguarding-and-protection/code-of-behaviour](http://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-safeguarding-and-protection/code-of-behaviour)

## DECLARATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that I have read, understand and accept the **Code of Behaviour (Underage)** and I agree to be bound by the principles set out in the Code when participating, playing or attending our Gaelic Games.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Underage Player)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian of underage player)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Coach/Referee/Club Official etc)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Gaelic Games Associations' Adult - Child Supervision and Coaching ratios  
for all age groups, up to and including minor level**

**The Gaelic Games adult - child supervision ratio agreement forms part of the Code of Behaviour (Underage) and applies as a minimum ratio to all Club and Camp activities up to and including the minor level grade and to Cumann na mBunscol Gaelic Games activities.**

**RATIOS**

- Playing and training activities must abide by a minimum ratio of 2 adults to 10 children, (2:10). This ratio level requires at least one qualified coach and at least one other responsible adult to be present at all times
- Ratios of 2:10 apply to each group of ten children or up to ten children in a group
- Groups of 10-20 children must have a minimum of 3 adults present at all times
- Any group that exceeds 20 in number must abide by the minimum ratios as per above.
- The number of coaches and or responsible adults required, will depend on the number of children attending a training session, a camp or game, with consideration also given to the nature of the activity as required and the needs of the children

**COACH**

- Coaches, as a minimum, must have achieved a Foundation level coaching qualification, must be satisfactorily vetted and have attended relevant Child Safeguarding Training
- Club and Camp Coaches must be in membership of one of the Gaelic Games Associations
- Coaches must be at least 18 yrs. of age

**RESPONSIBLE ADULT**

- The responsible adult, i.e. a person over 18 yrs of age, if not a qualified coach, shall be deemed a Supervisor of Children. He/she must also be satisfactorily vetted and must have attended relevant Child Safeguarding Training
- Club and Camp Supervisors must be in membership of one of the Gaelic Games Associations
- When appointing a person as a Supervisor or 'responsible adult' to work at underage level Clubs have a responsibility to appoint persons of the highest standards who shall be recognised as role models to work with children
- Persons appointed as Supervisors of Children shall be obliged to be satisfactorily vetted and must have attended relevant Child Safeguarding Training

**CAMP AND ACTIVITY ASSISTANT**

- The role of Camp and Activity Assistant is that of assisting and not coaching or supervising
- The following applies to a Camp Assistant:
  - Camp/Activity Assistants must be at least 16 yrs. of age
  - Must be vetted by their Association in accordance with the GNVB or AccessNI process
  - Must complete the Camp Assistant Safeguarding Training Programme or acceptable and equivalent safeguarding training programme if working at camps:  
<http://learning.gaa.ie/node/283509>
  - May choose to attend additional Child Safeguarding training e.g. Safeguarding 1 workshop
  - May not act in a coaching or supervisory role, which are two other distinct roles

**GENDER REQUIREMENTS**

- Where a team or training group consists of both boys and girls, the supervision and coaching personnel, must also comprise of both male and female personnel
- In the case of an all-female team, at least one of the adults (coach/supervisor) must be female and similarly in the case of an all-boys team, at least one of the two adults (coach/supervisor) must be male.

# GIVE RESPECT - GET RESPECT



### PLAYERS

Respect your opponent, play by the rules, accept the decisions of officials & be a role model

### YOUR CLUB & COUNTY

Accept responsibility to ensure that Players, Coaches, Spectators & Referees "Give Respect - Get Respect" from each other

# GIVE RESPECT GET RESPECT

Our games. Our choice.

### PARENTS, GUARDIANS & SUPPORTERS

Show approval for how the game is played and do not criticise officials or harass your own team or the opposition

### COACHES

Lead by example, be a role model and treat everybody equally regardless of ability

### REFEREES

Apply the rules of the game impartially and gain the respect of all players, officials and spectators



[www.gaa.ie/respect](http://www.gaa.ie/respect)



# GIVE RESPECT - GET RESPECT

## GIVE RESPECT - GET RESPECT HOW DOES IT WORK IN THE GAA?

- The GAA Respect Initiative seeks to ensure that Gaelic Games are promoted and played in a positive, fair and enjoyable manner at all ages and regardless of competition where players, coaches, referees and spectators Give Respect and Get Respect from each other.
- Clubs should adopt the Respect Initiative commencing with players at nursery or academy level and then progress to adult level
- Coaches should lead by example and never use unacceptable language towards a match official, to a member of an opposing team or to their own players
- Promote the Code of Behaviour (Underage) as the minimum level of behaviour when working with underage players
- Emphasise with all players, regardless of age, that they should at all times respect their own fellow team members and their opponents
- Players should at all times respect the decisions of match officials
- Parents should show good example to their children by respecting the team coaches and the decisions of match officials and act in a supporting and not a criticising role from the sidelines



The GAA Give Respect – Get Respect initiative promotes the rights, dignity and worth of each person regardless of ability, age, cultural or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, or religious belief



**The GAA Respect initiative seeks to ensure that Gaelic Games are promoted and played in a positive, fair and enjoyable manner where players, coaches, spectators and referees Give Respect – Get Respect from each other.**

**The Give Respect – Get Respect initiative applies to all in the GAA regardless of age, competition or ability.**

## HOW DO WE PROMOTE THE GAA RESPECT INITIATIVE?

- Wear the Give Respect Get Respect logo on your Club jerseys
- Organise the Respect Handshake before or after each game
- Support and implement the Go Games model in your Club
- Organise a clearly marked designated spectator areas for your games
- County Boards are encouraged to provide recognition awards for Clubs who successfully promote the Respect Initiative
- Organise half time Respect exhibition games at Inter County League and Championship Games
- Ensure that the Respect Initiative is addressed as part of our coach education programmes and in our child safeguarding workshops
- The Give Respect – Get Respect is a responsibility for us all, Clubs, Players, Coaches, Parents and Match Officials
- Promoting the initiative is a key roles for the Club and County Children's Officers



Produced by the Child Safeguarding Committee in association with  
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Cumann Camógaíochta, Cumann Peil na mBan,  
Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann and Comhairle Cluiche Corr na hÉireann.