



Gaelic Games Associations' Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment & Safeguarding Statement 2025

County Guidance

A Chairde,

As you have been made aware, all units must conduct a Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement to be submitted by 12th May 2025. These documents are to be completed via [Foireann](#).

All responses must be submitted by **5.00pm 12th of May 2025**. From the 14th of May 2025, non-compliant clubs will be in breach of legislation & policy and the closure of clubs for underage activity shall be considered by the National Child Safeguarding Committee.

Clubs should be reminded that under Sanction 5.14, the Safeguarding Non-Compliance Sanction that;

"The Child Safeguarding Committee shall also have the authority to order that a team, unit, or member, deemed to be safeguarding non-compliant, may not participate in any competitions, games, or activities during their period of non-compliance. This is a temporary measure and is separate to the process involving a Code of Behaviour Hearings Committee and shall be subject to the same appeals procedure as would any sanction imposed under the Code."

Please note, the onus is on the Club completing the form to ensure that all information supplied through the Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement is true & accurate. Information supplied may be subject to quality assurance follow up by the Gaelic Games Associations or statutory authorities.

If there are any questions not covered in this handbook or the supporting resources, please contact the relevant association below:

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|-----------|-------------------|---|
| GAA: | Catherine Hibbitt | safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie / catherine.hibbitt@gaa.ie |
| Camogie: | Roberta Farrell | roberta.farrell@camogie.ie |
| LGFA: | Aislinn Harkin | aislinn.harkin@lgfa.ie |
| Rounders: | Craig Davis | childrensofficer.rounders@gaa.ie |
| Handball: | David Britton | david.britton.handball@gaa.ie |

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National Child Safeguarding Committee

Introduction

The Gaelic Games Association's and Counties operate as a provider of a 'relevant service for children' under Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015 and under the joint [Child Safeguarding Policy](#) (previously named Code of Behaviour (Underage)), which is enshrined in our rules and the content of which reflects how we address our Association, legal and statutory safeguarding obligations. The requirement to conduct a Risk Assessment and to display a Child Safeguarding Statement is mandatory by Law (26 Counties). Risk Assessments and Child Safeguarding Statements are a Rule requirement for all including the 6 Counties and Britain, and mandatory under the joint Child Safeguarding Policy.

A County Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment considers the potential risks for harm to come to children and young people while they are availing of your services (e.g. County Teams, County Development Squads, Cúl Camps). The risk in this context is from a safeguarding perspective and not general health and safety risks. It is an exercise where a County Board examines whether there are features of their service that have the potential to put children at risk. The process includes identifying possible risks and the policies and procedures in place to mitigate against those risks. Your County's subsequent Child Safeguarding Statement 2025 (Section 11 (1b) Children First Act 2015) is based on the County's completed/updated risk assessment. The Child Safeguarding Statement is mandatory by Law (26 Counties), are a rule requirement for all, and mandatory within the joint Child Safeguarding Policy.

The Gaelic Games Associations must always ensure that we are vigilant and constantly aware as to the potential for harm that may come to a child when they are attending or participating in our games, training, or other activities. Members and parents should be aware that we have adopted excellent safeguarding policies, codes, guidelines, training, and other practices that address the risk of harm.

We depend however on our coaches, parents, children, and other club and county personnel to ensure that they are not only aware of these procedures but ensure they are also implemented.

Risk Assessment

The Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment is an exercise that requires each of our units to examine all aspects of our services, e.g., coaching, training, games, social activities, Scór etc. from a safeguarding perspective, and to establish whether there are practices or features in place that have the potential to put children at risk. As previously highlighted, the risk in this context is the risk of harm and not general health and safety risks.

Child Safeguarding Statement

Before preparing your Child Safeguarding Statement, you must undertake and complete an assessment of any potential for harm to a child availing of your service, i.e., the 'risk assessment' as outlined above.

The next step is to produce a Child Safeguarding Statement, and the Association issues a template to assist in this process. 'The Statement' is a written statement that specifies the (safeguarding) service being provided by our Associations and our units and the

principles and procedures to be observed in order to ensure, as far as practicable, that a child availing of our service is safe from harm. It should set out any potential risk of harm to a child that you have identified in your risk assessment, and the procedures that are in place to reduce the identified risks.

Units may amend the Child Safeguarding Statement template insofar and for example as it relates to facilities, named personnel, additional procedures or services that may be in place but must retain certain sections of the template that outline Association policies, procedures, and legal requirements.

Upon completion, the Child Safeguarding Statement must be agreed by the relevant Club/County Executive or Committee, signed by the Children's Officer, and must be displayed in a prominent place, e.g., in the clubhouse, noticeboard etc.

As the Child Safeguarding Statement included in the Risk Assessment document is intended as a template, please be aware that the specific details of the club/county need to be included in the document (see 'highlighted areas' on the Statement template). It is important for each club/County that adopts this template to include the name and contact details of the relevant person (i.e., Children's Officer) applicable to the club or County.

[Relevant policy/procedures links](#)

[Child Safeguarding Policy](#)

Instruction for completion of the Risk Assessment:

- ❑ **Step One:** The Risk Assessment Template is a printable document. Take note that the risk assessment document provides a populated example of risks under each heading.
- ❑ **Step Two:** During a County Executive meeting and using your printed risk assessment document (or Foireann Risk Assessment website page open on a laptop), each identified risk must be discussed, assessed, and ranked as either Low, Medium, or High (High as in a high likelihood of happening and not as highly achieved). All columns must be completed. Foireann will not accept or display incomplete Risk Assessments.
- ❑ **Step Three:** The County Executive may identify additional risks that are specific to your activities. Make note of any additional risks identified.
- ❑ **Step Four:** The completed risk assessment document must now be signed by the Chairperson and the County's Children's Officer.
- ❑ **Step Five:** The County Executive discussion, completion and subsequent signing of the Risk Assessment must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- ❑ **Step Six:** The County should make a copy of the fully completed Risk Assessment document available upon request.
- ❑ **Step Seven:** The County Children's Officer **must complete a final version of the Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment 2025 online Foireann by 5. 00 pm on 12th of May 2025.**
- ❑ **Step Eight:** Following completion of the final Risk Assessment on Foireann, the County must now complete their County Child Safeguarding Statement (2025 version available as a download on Foireann once the Risk Assessment has been completed).

Please be reminded:

- ❑ Be aware that the County Executive have the ultimate responsibility for the County Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment.
- ❑ The County Executive does not complete Risk Assessments on behalf of Clubs.
- ❑ Following completion of the final Risk Assessment on Foireann, the County must now complete their County Child Safeguarding Statement (2025 version available as a download on Foireann).
- ❑ Both the Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement must be completed using a laptop or PC. They are not fully accessible via a phone, due to the level of detail required. To assist you in completing the Risk Assessment, a 'save as you go' option is available.

- ❑ As a mandatory requirement of the Children First Act 2015, and the joint Child Safeguarding Policy, the County Child Safeguarding Statement 2025 must be signed and dated by the Relevant Person responsible for the Statement, the County Children’s Officer.
- ❑ As a mandatory requirement of the Children First Act 2015, and the joint Child Safeguarding Policy, the County must display their Child Safeguarding Statement in a prominent public place (county offices/website/social media).
- ❑ The County is advised that information supplied on the Risk Assessment may be subject to a compliance review by the Gaelic Games Association or statutory authorities.
- ❑ Risk Assessments & Safeguarding Statements must be completed on Foireann. If there are any questions not covered in this Guidance document or the FAQ, please contact the relevant association below:

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