

Gaelic Games Associations' Insert County Name County Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment

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The Gaelic Games Association's and insert County name 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.

Please see the following documents to assist you in the completion of the County Risk Assessment 2025;

- County Risk Assessment 2025 Guidance
- Frequently Asked Questions for Clubs and Counties

Documents available here: [Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement](#)

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SECTION 1 COUNTY & COACHING PRACTICES				
The potential risk of harm and abuse of children under each of the headings below is high.	H = High M = Medium L = Low Risk	Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Who is responsible at County level?	Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)
EXAMPLE County coaches/trainers/mentors and other personnel with no child safeguarding training	EXAMPLE H	EXAMPLE ○ Safeguarding Level 1 – Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop	EXAMPLE ○ Children's Officer (CO) ○ Coaching Officer ○ County Executive	EXAMPLE Arrange Safeguarding 1 workshop for non-compliant coaches Seek verification of attendance
County coaches/trainers/mentors/camp personnel and other personnel with no child safeguarding training		○	○	
County coaches and camp coaches with no coaching qualification		○	○	
County coaches/trainers/mentors/camp personnel and other relevant personnel not vetted/no background checks		○	○	
County Children's Officer has attended the relevant safeguarding training (Workshop levels 1 and 2)		○	○	
County Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person have attended relevant safeguarding training (Workshop levels 1 and 3)		○	○	
Poor Practice Inadequate Supervision		○	○	

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Inadequate supervision ratios				
Lack of adherence with agreed procedures e.g., use of mobiles, texting, recording, streaming, analysis, photography, transport rules.		○	○	
No guidance on travelling, on away trips or when hosting an activity		○	○	

SECTION 2 COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINE				
The potential risk of harm and abuse of children under each of the headings below is high.	H = High M = Medium L = Low Risk	Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Who is responsible at County level?	Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)
EXAMPLE No awareness of complaints & disciplinary policy or procedures	EXAMPLE H	EXAMPLE ○ Child Safeguarding Policy Sections 4 Dealing with Breaches of Code Section	EXAMPLE ○ County Executive	EXAMPLE Immediate action required to highlight section
No awareness of complaints & disciplinary policy or procedures		○	○	
Complaints not being dealt with appropriately		○	○	
Lack of awareness of how to report complaints such as poor		○	○	

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practice, breaches of the Child Safeguarding Policy and associated Disciplinary procedures				
County Child Safeguarding Hearings Committee established		○	○	
County Child Safeguarding Determining Committee established		○	○	

SECTION 3 REPORTING PROCEDURES

The potential risk of harm and abuse of children under each of the headings below is high.	H = High M = Medium L = Low Risk	Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Who is responsible at County level?	Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)
EXAMPLE Awareness of organisational reporting procedures – Child Safeguarding Policy guidance for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse	EXAMPLE H	EXAMPLE ○ Reporting procedures/policy ○ Coach education policy ○ Child Safeguarding Policy Ref: Reporting Child Abuse Concerns Section ○ Guidance for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations and concerns of Abuse	EXAMPLE ○ County Executive National Safeguarding Committee ○ Mandated Person ○ DLPs/Children's Officers ○ Other relevant County personnel	EXAMPLE ○ Circulate relevant policy/procedure documents to relevant personnel
Awareness of organisational reporting procedures – Child Safeguarding Policy guidance		○	○	

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for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse				
Lack of knowledge of statutory reporting procedure Failure to report concerns or allegations of harm or abuse		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Awareness of Association's National Mandated Person (NMP)		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Awareness of others as per Schedule 2 of the Children First Act who are Mandated Person		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
County Designated Liaison Person (DLP) appointed		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
County Deputy Designated Liaison appointed		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
County Children's Officer (with correct title) appointed and in membership of County Executive Committee		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Not clear who a child, Young Person (YP) should talk to or report to at County level		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Parents/Guardians not aware how to raise a complaint or report a concern		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Child and young person not aware how to raise a complaint, or report a concern		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

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SECTION 4 FACILITIES				
The potential risk of harm and abuse of children under each of the headings below is high.	H = High M = Medium L = Low Risk	Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Who is responsible at County level?	Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)
EXAMPLE Unauthorized access to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. while in use by children	EXAMPLE H	EXAMPLE ○ Child Safeguarding Policy Ref: Supervision policy	EXAMPLE ○ Coaches ○ Coaching Officer ○ Committees and Persons in charge ○ County Executive ○ Children's Officer	EXAMPLE All Coaches will be sent the relevant policy and asked to revise content
Unauthorized access to changing rooms, gym facilities, showers, toilets etc. while in use by children.		○	○	
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g., dressing room, showers, warm up areas etc.		○	○	
Unauthorized photography, filming, recording, streaming and analysis		○	○	
Missing or child found on site procedures		○	○	
A check conducted by the County when hiring facilities to ensure that appropriate		○	○	

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safeguarding procedures have been put in place				
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SECTION 5 RECRUITMENT				
The potential risk of harm and abuse of children under each of the headings below is high.	H = High M = Medium L = Low Risk	Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Who is responsible at County level?	Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)
EXAMPLE Recruitment of inappropriate people/ unqualified people in roles	EXAMPLE H	EXAMPLE ○ Child Safeguarding Policy – Recruitment & Selection of Coaches, Supervisors & other Volunteers Policy	EXAMPLE ○ County Executive ○ Children's Officer ○ Coaching Officer	EXAMPLE The County will continue to review on an ongoing basis. Proof of adherence required.
Recruitment of inappropriate people/ unqualified people in roles (e.g. Coaches)		○	○	
County coaches/trainers/mentors/ and other personnel with no valid vetting		○	○	
Recruitment and appointment of fixtures to Referees with no valid vetting or in-service training (includes safeguarding)		○	○	
Recruitment and appointment of Relevant County personnel who are not vetted/no background checks		○	○	

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Relevant County personnel not having completed safeguarding training		○	○	
No role description or inadequate role descriptions for those working with children		○	○	
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors		○	○	

SECTION 6 COMMUNICATIONS				
The potential risk of harm and abuse of children under each of the headings below is high.	H = High M = Medium L = Low Risk	Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Who is responsible at County level?	Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)
EXAMPLE No awareness or communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Child Safeguarding Policy to members or visitors	EXAMPLE H	EXAMPLE ○ Child Safeguarding Statement ○ Child Safeguarding Policy – distribute	EXAMPLE ○ County Committee ○ DLPs ○ Children's Officer	EXAMPLE The new 2025 Statement is to be replace the old (blue) statement on the wall in the County Centre of Excellence and will be distributed to all members
No awareness or communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Child Safeguarding Policy to members or visitors		○	○	
Underage players inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones, and other devices while at Gaelic		○	○	

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Games Associations' activities or on our premises				
Inappropriate communications with underage players via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner		○	○	
Awareness of social media policy, acceptable ICT usage, streaming policy of juvenile games		○	○	
County Child Safeguarding Statement on display on County grounds and uploaded to the county website and Facebook page		○	○	
Consent form for underage players with parental permission with relevant medical information & permission to participate, photographic/streaming/recording and analysis permission, & travel consent – all completed as required		○	○	

TEMPLATE ONLY

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SECTION 7 GENERAL RISK OF HARM				
The potential risk of harm and abuse of children under each of the headings below is high.	H = High M = Medium L = Low Risk	Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Who is responsible at County level?	Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)
EXAMPLE Harm not being recognised	EXAMPLE H	EXAMPLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safeguarding Policies ○ Child Safeguarding Training 	EXAMPLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DLP ○ Children's Officer ○ Mandated Person ○ Team Coaches 	EXAMPLE Coaches and mentors are always vigilant and review the policy documents on an ongoing basis. The County Executive will continue to emphasise and implement this policy.
Harm not being recognised		○	○	
Harm caused by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child to child ▪ Coach to child ▪ Volunteer to child ▪ Member to child ▪ Visitor to child ▪ Adult to child 		○	○	
General behavioural issues – vetting of staff/volunteers/referees and dealing with poor practice (e.g. coaching). Other inappropriate		○	○	

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behaviours of parents/guardians, volunteers, children, and young people)				
Risk of abuse through online harm, social media, and inappropriate photography		○	○	
Bullying Issues Anti bullying statement on display		○	○	
Other risks of harm that may be relevant to where the County is situated or to numbers or underage players or to specific or special needs of underage players or teams		○	○	

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SECTION 8 RISK ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT AUDIT

Has your County appointed a 3-person County Child Safeguarding Hearings Committee whose role it is to hear alleged breaches of the Policy as referred to them? **Yes/No (See Section 4 of the Code of Behaviour (Underage))**

How many new* coaches were recruited by the County in 2024 to work at underage level? (*not previously involved in the County as a coach) **(Insert figure only – no text)**

In 2024, what were the top three issues that were brought to the attention of your County Children's Officer or your relevant County Committee? Please rate all issues from 1-3, 1 being the least common issue and 3 being the most common issue **Alleged breaches by coaches (underage); Alleged breaches by players (underage); Alleged breaches by parents or supporters; Transfer complaints; Complaints by parents over lack of playing time for their children; non-adherence to Vetting or Safeguarding Training requirements.**

If you selected complaints by parents over lack of playing time for their children what was the playing level

- Under 7**
- Under 8**
- Under 9**
- Under 10**
- Under 11**
- Under 12**

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- Under 13
- Under 14
- Under 15
- Under 16
- Under 17
- Under 18
- N/A

This Risk Assessment Procedure was discussed and adopted at the Executive Committee of _____ (County) on _____
(date)

County Chairperson:

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

County Children's Officer:

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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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 (High as in a high likelihood of happening and not as highly achieved).

- **Extra information (Where applicable)**

Please use this section to detail any important information in connection with the potential risk of harm & abuse to children being analysed

- **Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure**

These are the some of the policies, codes, guidance we have in place that if implemented could alleviate the risks.

- Child Safeguarding Policy - <https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-safeguarding-and-protection/child-safeguarding-policy>
- Recruitment Policy
- Vetting Policy
- Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Training Policy
- Guidance for Dealing & Reporting Allegations of Concerns of Abuse
- GAA Social Media Guidelines

- **Who is responsible at County/National?**

Who is responsible for ensuring that the relevant policy etc. is implemented?

- **Further action required.**

Please record how the response may be implemented or if necessary, 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

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- **Committee:** Can refer to Club Executive, Bord na nÓg or Coiste na nÓg, County Committee or Committee in charge
- **Child Safeguarding Policy** (previously Code of Behaviour (Underage) and referred to as 'Code')
- **Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations & Concerns of Abuse**

The current guidance that directs County Committees when dealing with allegations or concerns of abuse.

(<https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/xcf15mjugcljoqujvp4t.pdf>)

- **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. In-Service Training for Referees (built in safeguarding module).
- **Child Safeguarding Statement:** This is an agreed Child Safeguarding Statement from all 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 Child Safeguarding Policy 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 County level.
- **Mandated Person:** The mandated person who has a legal obligation to report harm of children as per legislation.

GAA: Michelle Harte - mandatedperson@gaa.ie

LGFA: Paula Prunty - mandatedperson@lgfa.ie

Camogie: Roberta Farrell – mandated@camogie.ie

Handball: David Britton – mandatedperson.handball@gaa.ie

Rounders: - Michelle Harte - mandatedperson@gaa.ie.