

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-today 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 second iteration of 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				
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 Executive	<i>Keep 'Four Masters Child Protection' spreadsheet up to date Arrange further training courses during 2020 & have verification of attendance on file and updated in spreadsheet</i>
Club coaches with no coaching qualification	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coach education policy ▪ Recruitment policy 	Club Executive Coaching Officer	<i>'Four Masters Coach Education' spreadsheet to be created and updated with currently available data Arrange further training courses during 2020 & have verification of attendance on file and updated in spreadsheet</i>
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	<i>Club Executive to immediately stand down any relevant current club personnel who have not completed their Garda Vetting</i>
Poor Practice Inadequate Supervision Lack of supervision ratios	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Behaviour (Underage) Ref: Coaching section ▪ Supervision policy/ratios ▪ Coach education policy ▪ Safeguarding Level 1 	Club Executive	<i>Enforce 'Supervision' policy in the Code of Behaviour (Underage) booklet Review on an ongoing basis</i>
Lack of adherence to procedures e.g. use of mobiles, texting, transport rules, photography.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Behaviour Ref: Social Media section 	Coach Children's Officer	<i>Enforce 'Social Media' policy in the Code of Behaviour (Underage) booklet Review on an ongoing basis</i>
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	<i>Enforce 'Travelling and Away Trips' policy in the Code of Behaviour (Underage) booklet Review on an ongoing basis</i>
Lack of adherence with miscellaneous procedures in our safeguarding practices (i.e. mobile, photography, transport)	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding policy ▪ Complaints & disciplinary policy 	Person in charge Juvenile Committee Children's Officer	<i>Will require ongoing monitoring by the persons in charge, Bord na nÓg sub-committee and Children's Officer</i>

COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINE				
No awareness of complaints & disciplinary policy or procedures	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour Ref: Dealing with Breaches of Code Section 	Club Executive	Code of Behaviour Education programme to be rolled out in the Club again in 2020 not later than March 31 st Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate
Complaints not being dealt with appropriately	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy 	Club Executive	Appropriate structure for the Club in place including Children's Officer, Designated Liaison Person, Determining Committee and Hearings Committee by March 31 st 2020
REPORTING PROCEDURES				
No organisational reporting procedures Lack of knowledge of statutory reporting procedure Lack of knowledge of procedures Failure to report concerns or allegations of harm or abuse	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 DLPs Club Executive Other relevant Club personnel	Code of Behaviour Education programme to be rolled out in the Club again in 2020 not later than March 31 st Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate Include in Safeguarding Training Courses Include in Coach Education Training Courses
National Mandated Person (MP) - Not appointed - No knowledge of MP	L	<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	Publicise identity of National Mandated Person with prominent display of 2019 Child Safeguarding Statement at our club grounds
No Club Designated Liaison Person (DLP) appointed	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations & Concerns of Abuse Code of Behaviour 	Club Executive County DLP National Safeguarding Committee	Club Designated Liaison Person has been appointed Club Designated Liaison Person shall attend the appropriate training course Publicise identity of Club Designated Liaison Person with prominent display at our club grounds

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	<i>Code of Behaviour Education programme to be rolled out in the Club again in 2020 not later than March 31st</i> <i>Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate</i> <i>Include in Safeguarding Training Courses</i> <i>Publicise identity of Club Children's Officers, Club Designated Liaison Person and National Mandated Persons with prominent display at our club grounds</i> <i>Publicise internal and external reporting procedures</i>
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	<i>Publicise identity of Club Children's Officers, Club Designated Liaison Person and National Mandated Persons with prominent display at our club grounds</i> <i>Communicate this information at all levels within the Club as part of the Code of Behaviour Education programme being rolled out in the Club again in 2020 not later than March 31st</i> <i>Include in Child Safeguarding Training Courses</i> <i>Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate</i>
FACILITIES				
Unauthorised access to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. while in use by children.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour Ref: Supervision policy 	Committees and Persons in charge Club Executive Children's Officer	<i>Clarify responsibilities before session starts</i> <i>Erect appropriate signage in the dressing rooms and at access doors</i> <i>Access at rear door of dressing rooms to be reviewed in 2020</i>
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers, warm up areas etc.	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour (Underage) 	Committees and Persons in charge Club Executive Children's Officer	<i>Management of facilities should have a child centred focus i.e. adult bookings for the dressing rooms should not overlap with underage bookings for the dressing rooms</i>
Unauthorised photography, filming or recording	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography policy and use of devices in private zones 	Committees and Persons in charge	<i>Enforce 'Social Media' policy in the Code of Behaviour (Underage) booklet in private changing and wet areas</i> <i>Review on an ongoing basis</i>
Missing or found child on site	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour (Underage) 	Committees and Persons in charge	<i>Make all personnel aware of Club procedure (Missing or Lost Persons Station)</i>
RECRUITMENT				

Recruitment of inappropriate people	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour Ref: Recruitment Section 	Club Committee Children's Officer Coaching Officer	<i>Club Executive to stand down any relevant new club personnel immediately who have not completed their Garda Vetting</i>
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	<i>Club Executive to stand down any relevant new club personnel immediately who have not completed their Garda Vetting</i>
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 Coaching Officer	<i>Enforce 'Recruitment' policy in the Code of Behaviour (Underage) booklet Review on an ongoing basis</i>
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>'Four Masters Coach Education' spreadsheet to be created and updated with currently available data Arrange further training courses during 2020 & have verification of attendance on file and updated in spreadsheet</i>
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement Training policy 	National Safeguarding Committee Club Committee DLPs Children's Officer	<i>Prominent display of 2019 Child Safeguarding Statement at our club grounds Code of Behaviour Education programme to be rolled out in the Club again in 2020 not later than March 31st Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate</i>
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	<i>Prominent display of 2019 Child Safeguarding Statement at our club grounds Code of Behaviour Education programme to be rolled out in the Club again in 2020 not later than March 31st Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate</i>
Unauthorised photography, recording of activities etc.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour - Ref: Photography, images section Child Safeguarding Training L1 	Club Executive Children's Officer Team coaches	<i>Enforce 'Photography/Images' policy in the Code of Behaviour (Underage) booklet Review on an ongoing basis</i>
Inappropriate photography & recording activities	M	<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	<i>Enforce 'Photography/Images' policy in the Code of Behaviour (Underage) booklet Review on an ongoing basis</i>

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	Enforce 'Communications' policy in the Code of Behaviour (Underage) booklet 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 Executive Children's Officer Team coaches	Enforce 'Communications' policy in the Code of Behaviour (Underage) booklet Review on an ongoing basis
GENERAL RISK OF HARM				
Harm not being recognised	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding policies Child Safeguarding Training 	DLP Children's Officer Mandated Person Team coaches	Code of Behaviour Education programme to be rolled out in the Club again in 2020 not later than March 31 st Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate Emphasise and implement policy Review on an ongoing basis
Harm caused by - child to child - coach to child - member to child - visitor to child	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding policies Child Safeguarding Training 	DLPs Children's Officer Mandated Person Team coaches	Code of Behaviour Education programme to be rolled out in the Club again in 2020 not later than March 31 st Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate Emphasise and implement policy Review on an ongoing basis
General behavioural issues	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Behaviour (Underage) 	Team coaches Children's Officers	Take disciplinary action where necessary Sign Code of Behaviour (Code Declaration/Signatory Form)

This Risk Assessment Procedure was discussed at the Executive Committee of Four MASTERS (Club) on 9/3/2020 (date)

Club Chairperson:

Name: Paunic Harvey
 Position: Chairperson
 Signed: Paunic Harvey
 Date: 9/3/20

Club Children's Officer:

Name: SEAN DUNNION
 Position: CHILDREN'S OFFICER
 Signed: Sean Dunnion
 Date: 9/3/20

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 2018
- **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.