

## **Gaelic Games Associations' Insert Club Name Club Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

***This is a Template/Sample - The Club's final Risk Assessment document must be completed and submitted via Foireann.***

The Gaelic Games Association's and insert Club 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 Club Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment considers the potential risks for harm to come to children and young people while they are availing of your service. The risk in this context is from a safeguarding perspective and not general health and safety risks. It is an exercise where a club 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 Clubs subsequent Child Safeguarding Statement 2025 (Section 11 (1b) Children First Act 2015) is based on the Clubs 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 Club Risk Assessment 2025;**

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

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

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

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Poor Practice Inadequate Supervision Inadequate supervision ratios			○	○	
Lack of adherence with agreed procedures e.g., use of mobiles, texting, recording, streaming, analysis, photography, and 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	Extra information	Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Who is responsible at Club level?	Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)
<b>EXAMPLE</b>  No awareness of complaints & disciplinary policy or procedures	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  H	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  New committee set up this year – policy to be circulated as soon as possible	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  ○ Child Safeguarding Policy - Dealing with Breaches of the Policy	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  ○ Club Executive	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  Immediate action required to highlight section
No awareness of complaints & disciplinary policy or procedures			○	○	

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Complaints not being dealt with appropriately			○	○	
Lack of awareness of how to report complaints such as poor practice, breaches of the Child Safeguarding Policy and associated Disciplinary procedures			○	○	
Club Child Safeguarding Hearings Committee established			○	○	
Club 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	Extra information	Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Who is responsible at Club level?	Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)
<b>EXAMPLE</b>  Awareness of organisational reporting procedures – Child Safeguarding Policy Guidance for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  H	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  New committee members, and Children’s Officers and DLP are to be made aware of disciplinary procedures	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reporting procedures/policy</li> <li>○ Coach education policy</li> <li>○ Child Safeguarding Policy Ref: Reporting Child Abuse Concerns Section</li> <li>○ Guidance for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations and concerns of Abuse</li> </ul>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Club Executive National Safeguarding Committee</li> <li>○ Mandated Person</li> <li>○ DLPs/Children’s Officers</li> <li>○ Other relevant Club personnel</li> </ul>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Circulate relevant policy/procedure documents to relevant personnel</li> </ul>

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Awareness of organisational reporting procedures – Child Safeguarding Policy guidance for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse			○	○	
Lack of knowledge of statutory reporting procedures Failure to report concerns or allegations of harm or abuse			○	○	
Awareness of Association's National Mandated Person (NMP)			○	○	
Awareness of others as per Schedule 2 of the Children First Act who are Mandated Persons			○	○	
Club Designated Liaison Person (DLP) appointed			○	○	
Club Deputy Designated Liaison Person appointed			○	○	
Club Children's Officer (with correct title) appointed and in membership of Club Executive Committee			○	○ Club	
Club Children's Officer has made themselves known to all members – can be easily identified by children, young people, and parents/guardians			○	○	
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported			○	○	

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Not clear who a child, Young Person (YP) should talk to or report to at Club level			○	○	
Parents/Guardians not aware how to raise a complaint or report a concern			○	○	
Child and young person not aware how to raise a complaint, or report a concern			○	○	
<b>SECTION 4 FACILITIES</b>					
<b>The potential risk of harm and abuse of children under each of the headings below is high.</b>	<b>H = High M = Medium L = Low Risk</b>	<b>Extra information</b>	<b>Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure</b>	<b>Who is responsible at Club level?</b>	<b>Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)</b>
<b>EXAMPLE</b>  Unauthorized access to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. while in use by children	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  H	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  Coaches'/Mentors/ Trainers/Relevant Personnel to be made familiar with guidance in the Child Safeguarding Policy	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  ○ Child Safeguarding Policy Ref: Supervision policy	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  ○ Coaches ○ Coaching Officer ○ Committees and Persons in charge ○ Club Executive ○ Children's Officer	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  All Coaches will be sent the relevant policy and asked to revise content
Unauthorized access to changing rooms, gym facility, showers, toilets etc. while in use by children.			○	○	

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Children sharing facilities with adults e.g., dressing room, showers, warm up areas etc.			○	○	
Unauthorised photography, filming, recording, streaming and analysis			○	○	
Missing or child found on site procedures			○	○	
A check conducted by club when hiring facilities to ensure that appropriate safeguarding procedures have been put in place			○	○	

**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	Extra information	Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Who is responsible at Club level?	Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)
<b>EXAMPLE</b>  Recruitment of inappropriate people/ unqualified people in roles	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  H	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  The Vetting for 2 coaches is due to expire in the next few weeks. Coaches have been advised to reapply as soon as possible	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  ○ Child Safeguarding Policy – Recruitment & Selection of Coaches, Supervisors & other Volunteers Policy	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  ○ Club Executive ○ Children's Officer ○ Coaching Officer	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  The club will continue to review on an ongoing basis. Proof of adherence required.
Recruitment of inappropriate people/ unqualified people in roles (e.g. coaches)			○	○	
Relevant Club personnel not vetted/no background checks		<i>Vetting is required every three years</i>	○	○	

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Relevant Club personnel not having completed Safeguarding training		Safeguarding training is required every three years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
No role description or inadequate role descriptions for those working with children			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

**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	Extra information	Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure	Who is responsible at Club level?	Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)
<b>EXAMPLE</b>  No awareness or communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Child Safeguarding Policy to members or visitors	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  H	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  The club is aware that Safeguarding Statements must be publicly displayed by the club	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  <input type="radio"/> Child Safeguarding Statement <input type="radio"/> Child Safeguarding Policy– distribute	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  <input type="radio"/> Club Committee <input type="radio"/> DLPs <input type="radio"/> Children's Officer	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  The new 2025 Statement (white) is to be replace the old (blue) statement on the clubhouse wall and will be distributed to all members
No awareness or communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Child Safeguarding Policy to members or visitors			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Underage players inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones, and			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	



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other devices while at Gaelic 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			○	○	
Club Child Safeguarding Statement on display in the clubhouse and/or club grounds and uploaded to the club website and Facebook page, signed, and dated by the Responsible Person			○	○	
Ensure that all children register with club on an annual basis and that the necessary medical awareness information and contact details for parents are submitted at the time of registration			○	○	
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			○	○	

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<b>SECTION 7 GENERAL RISK OF HARM</b>					
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<b>EXAMPLE</b>  Harm not being recognised	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  H	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  New coaches may not be familiar with the Association's safeguarding undertakings and the content of the Club's Child Safeguarding Statement	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Safeguarding Policies</li> <li>○ Child Safeguarding Training</li> </ul>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DLP</li> <li>○ Children's Officer</li> <li>○ Mandated Person</li> <li>○ Team Coaches</li> </ul>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>  Coaches and mentors are always vigilant and review the policy documents on an ongoing basis. The Club Executive will continue to emphasise and implement this policy.
Harm not being recognised			○	○	
Harm caused by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child to child</li> <li>● Coach to child</li> <li>● Volunteer to child</li> <li>● Member to child</li> <li>● Visitor to child</li> <li>● Adult to child</li> </ul>			○	○	
General behavioural issues – vetting of staff/volunteers and dealing with poor practice (e.g. coaching). Other inappropriate behaviours of			○	○	

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

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**SECTION 9 RISK ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT AUDIT**

Has your Club appointed a 3-person Club 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 Child Safeguarding Policy)**

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

Please provide the contact details of your Club Children's Officer **(Name/Email/Phone Number)**

Please provide the contact details of your Club Designated Liaison Person **(Name/Email/Phone Number)**

In 2024, what were the top three issues that were brought to the attention of your Club Children's Officer or your relevant Club Committee? **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? **(Tick box answer, only one answer)**

**Go Games, Competitive Age, Both, not applicable.**

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This Risk Assessment Procedure was discussed and adopted at the Executive Committee of \_\_\_\_\_ (Club) on \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

**Club Chairperson: ?**

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

**Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Club 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 with & Reporting Allegations of Concerns of Abuse
- GAA Social Media Guidelines

- **Who is responsible at Club/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

- **Committee:** Can refer to Club Executive, Bord na nÓg or Coiste na nÓg, County Committee or Committee in charge

- **Child Safeguarding Policy:** Previously the Code of Behaviour (Underage) and referred to as 'Code'.

- **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.

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

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- **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 Club 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](mailto:mandatedperson@gaa.ie)

**LGFA:** Paula Prunty - [mandatedperson@lgfa.ie](mailto:mandatedperson@lgfa.ie)

**Camogie:** Roberta Farrell – [mandated@camogie.ie](mailto:mandated@camogie.ie)

**Handball:** David Britton – [mandatedperson.handball@gaa.ie](mailto:mandatedperson.handball@gaa.ie)

**Rounders:** - Michelle Harte - [mandatedperson@gaa.ie](mailto:mandatedperson@gaa.ie)