



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

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### General Information

1. I could not/cannot attend the Information webinar on 12<sup>th</sup> of April. Is there anywhere I can view this?

The Risk Assessment Webinar is available to view here - <https://youtu.be/u8vWoaRQlas>

2. What is a Risk Assessment?

A risk assessment is an exercise we carry out where our Clubs, County Committees, and each of our Associations at national level to examine all aspects of our service from a safeguarding perspective and establish whether there are any practices or features of the service, whether they be games, training, other activities for children, or the recruitment of coaches & mentors, that have the potential to put children at risk. A risk assessment is mandatory under the Children First Act 2015 and the joint Child Safeguarding Policy (Previously Gaelic Games Code of Behaviour (Underage)) and must be completed every two years

3. What is a Child Safeguarding Statement?

A Child Safeguarding Statement that outlines the policies and procedures which are in place to manage and minimise the risks that have been identified. The updated 2025 template can be accessed via Foireann. The Child Safeguarding Statement must also be updated every 2 years.

4. How often must we carry out a Risk Assessment & develop a Child Safeguarding Statement?

All units are required to conduct a Risk Assessment & develop a new Child Safeguarding Statement every 2 years. The previous assessment took place in 2023. Although the next Assessment will take place in early 2027, please consider the Risk Assessment as a working document, that can be amended upon a material change in Club or County.

5. Can we amend the Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement to make it more relevant to our club?

Clubs can, and are encouraged, to amend the Risk Assessment and/or Safeguarding Statement templates where applicable. However, please note that the Risk Assessment procedure relates to the potential risk of abuse & harm to children and not general Health & Safety risks

6. How do we fill in the 'Likelihood of it happening Low/Medium/High' column?

Clubs should discuss the 'Likelihood of it happening Low/Medium/High' column and identify if the likelihood of a risk of harm happening if your Club fails to adequately address the risks identified as High, Medium, or Low.

7. Can I print the Child Safeguarding Statement on A4 size paper?

The Child Safeguarding Statement must be printed in A3 size as not all content will fit on A4.

8. What colour is the Safeguarding Statement this year?

The Club Child Safeguarding Statement is white this year. In 2023, it was maroon. In 2021, it was blue. All clubs must complete the white template.

9. Where can I access the Child Safeguarding Statement as Gaeilge?

Please contact [safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie](mailto:safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie) for templates as Gaeilge.

### **Completing the Risk Assessment & Safeguarding Statement**

10. How do I log into Foireann?

Go to [foireann.ie](https://foireann.ie) and login using your Foireann account details.

If you do not have a Foireann account set up already, click 'New user? Register,' fill in the short form and you will receive an email asking you to verify your account.

11. How do I get access assigned to me as club children's officer?

Please read this article for info on assigning/adding administrator access to another member in your club: <https://gmssupport.zendesk.com/hc/en-gb/articles/360018414559-Assigning-Adding-Administrator-Access-to-another-Member-in-your-Club>

12. Should a County or Club Children's Officer set up a separate profile on Foireann?

No, they should not be setting up another account with their official email addresses. There is no extra protection in using an official email address vs a personal email address. They should use their own account.



13. Can I use personal email addresses rather than official Children's Officer email address?

Foireann highly recommend that Club and County Officers use their personal email addresses in their profile and not their official email addresses. This means that when they step down, it is as simple as removing the club admin and vetting admin permissions from their account. The club's children's officer email is linked to the club, and this is the only email which will receive any notifications regarding vetting. The person's email will never receive any notifications regarding vetting unless it is to do with the member's own vetting application.

14. How do I change my email on Foireann?

It can be done via their profile, under the email address field, there is a 'change' button, and they can change the email address linked to the account and save the change by entering their current password. The member will then get an email to the new email account to verify the email before they can re-gain access to Foireann. In our opinion, we do not recommend that County Children Officers or Club Children Officers use their official email addresses and if they were to step away from the role, the handover process becomes a lot more complicated.

15. If a Club Children's officer is also the County Children's Officer and they have one profile is there anything to prevent them being given access as Club and County?

As long as they have club admin and vetting admin for the club and club admin access for the County, they should be able to view the relevant information on behalf of the club and County. It is important that all County Children's Officers contact their Association to request access.

16. Family memberships for Club Children's Officer who are assigned Vetting Admins?

If the Children's Officer is linked to a family, the other family members cannot access this information unless they physically sign into the Children's officer's Foireann account with their username and password. The way to prevent this is to advise members not to share Foireann accounts. Everyone over the age of eighteen, should have their own Foireann account and login. No one should be sharing usernames and passwords on Foireann, and that includes partners. Like anything, if a partner knows your login details to your online banking, they can login as you. There is no extra protection in using an official email address vs a personal email address.

17. If a Club Children's Officer steps down from their role?

The only action required would be for Club admin to remove their club admin and vetting admin permissions. The Club is required to complete a new Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement.



18. If a County Children's Officer steps down from their role?

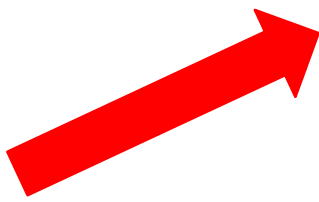
The only action required would be to contact the relevant Association to remove their club admin permission. The County is required to complete a new Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement.

19. Where can I access the Risk Assessment/Safeguarding Statement Template?

The Risk Assessment will be available on the Dashboard when the user logs into Foireann. They will need to be an Admin, Secretary or Children's Officer of a Club or County in Ireland or Britain.

The screenshot shows the Foireann dashboard for user Sally McNally. The dashboard includes a sidebar with navigation options like Home, Profile, Family, Events, Teams & Groups, Membership, Administration, Help Portal, and Logout. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Memberships:** Shows a membership for Sally McNally with a 'REGISTER NOW' button.
- Announcements:** Lists several notices, including 'Health and Safety & Data Protection Notice', 'Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment', 'LGFA Anti-doping Statement', and 'Camogie Anti-doping Statement'.
- Join the excitement of the GAA National Club Draw 2024/2025!** A promotional banner for the GAA National Club Draw with an 'ENTER DRAW' button.
- Actions:** A section titled 'Dublin' containing a 'To-Do' item: 'Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment'. The text explains that clubs with players under 18 must complete this assessment by 5:00 pm on 12th May 2025. A 'COMPLETE 2025 RISK ASSESSMENT' button is visible at the bottom of this section.





20. How do I complete the Risk Assessment?

Upon clicking "COMPLETE 2025 RISK ASSESSMENT" the user will be presented with a form as below. Complete the steps as outlined. Members will be able to save their progress and complete the Risk Assessment in multiple sittings. The risk assessment 2025 is available to print.

21. Who completes the Risk Assessment & signs off on the Child Safeguarding Statement?

The Risk Assessment must be discussed and adopted at a Club Executive Committee Meeting and must be signed by both the Club Chairperson & Club Children's Officer. Once completed, Clubs are required to develop a Child Safeguarding Statement to be put on prominent display (e.g., on Club social media, website, clubhouse etc.) and must be signed by the Club Children's Officer.

22. There are 3 sections in my club – GAA, Camogie & LGFA. How many Risk Assessment/Child Safeguarding Statements must we produce?

At the time of completion where a club is registered as a 'One Club Model' on Foireann, the club must complete one risk assessment and develop one Child Safeguarding Statement.

At the time of completion where a Club is not registered on Foireann as a One Club and has more than one committee registered on Foireann separately, then each Committee (section) must complete their own risk assessment and develop a Child Safeguarding statement.

23. What about Independent teams?

Independent, combined, and amalgamated teams or district teams are not mandated to complete the Risk Assessment or Safeguarding Statement as they should be covered by their adult club. Independent, combined and amalgamated/district teams can choose to complete the County Risk Assessment & County Statement, or agree their own statement – it is not to be completed on Foireann. Independent, combined and amalgamated/district teams will not be noted as non-compliant if they do not complete this process, as they should be covered by their adult club.

24. Our club is in the process of setting up a One Club Policy. Can we submit our Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statements together?

The policy adopted should reflect the current structure of the Club Executive i.e., at the time of completion, if there are currently two Club Executives, two Risk Assessments should be conducted.



25. Our Camogie club is a sub-committee of the GAA executive committee – are we required to do our own Risk Assessment & Safeguarding Statement?

No, as the Camogie section does not have its own independent structure its part of the one Club.

26. Our club is made up of 3 parishes who share the pitches of 3 local clubs. Do we need a separate Risk Assessment & Safeguarding Statement for each pitch?

No, the Child Safeguarding Statement reflects the outcome of the Risk Assessment conducted in each club - not each pitch - as adopted by each Club Executive.

27. Our club has a girl and a boy's section. Are two Risk Assessment & Safeguarding Statements required?

If there are two Club Executives, two Risk Assessments & Safeguarding Statements are required. If there is only one Club Executive, only one Risk Assessment & Safeguarding Statement is required.

28. Our club has no underage teams, but we have one underage player who plays with the Senior Team. Are we required to complete this process?

Yes. Clubs who have any players under the age of 18 must complete this process.

### **Submitting the Risk Assessment & Statement**

29. I am the Club Children's Officer, but I do not have access to Foireann. How do I submit the form?

All Club Children's Officers should have access to Foireann, however if you are having difficulties – the Club Secretary may submit the documentation on your behalf. The Statement *must* be signed by the Children's Officer.

30. Does the Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement need to be signed by relevant parties before it is submitted?

For the purposes of this procedure, typed signatures will suffice where signatures cannot be obtained but it must be adopted at a meeting of the Club Executive. The Risk Assessment must be signed by the Club Chairperson and by the Children's Officer while the Children's Officer signs & dates the Statement.



31. Where do Children’s Officers get an official email address?

Club Children’s Officer can avail of the official email address whereby their club chairperson or secretary can email [mail.support@gaa.ie](mailto:mail.support@gaa.ie) using their official GAA email address. For LGFA please email [info@lgfa.ie](mailto:info@lgfa.ie) using a LGFA email address. The Children’s Officer email address will then be created, and a temporary password issued which can be passed onto the club children’s officer.

32. How do I download a copy of our club Risk Assessment and Statement?

Upon completing all questions, you will be able to generate your reports and download them. Any previously completed reports will be available on the Dashboard via the "DOWNLOAD" button:

The screenshot shows a dashboard interface for a user named John Murray. On the left is a dark sidebar menu titled 'FOIREANN' with options like Home, Profile, Family, Events, Teams & Groups, Membership, Administration, Card Reader, Injuries, and Help Portal. The main content area is titled 'Dashboard' and displays a report for 'An Cheathru Rua'. The report title is 'Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment' and includes a 'Done' status. Below the title is a paragraph of text regarding the deadline for completing the assessment (12th of May 2025) and a link to the GAA website for more information. A red arrow points to a 'DOWNLOAD' button located below the text. Other buttons visible include 'OPEN CLUB COMPAS', 'EDIT 2025 RISK ASSESSMENT', and 'RETAKE 2025 RISK ASSESSMENT'. At the bottom of the dashboard, there is a light blue information box about CRBOT (Central Register of Beneficial Ownership of Trusts) and a link to a joint letter from Uachtarán Larry McCarthy and Ard Stiúrthóir Tom Ryan.

### Policy/Procedures

33. My club use the title Child Welfare Officer and not Children’s Officer. Is this, ok?

No. We do not have a role, or an Officer titled Child Welfare Officer. Your Club may have been well meaning in using it, but it could send the wrong signals as the word ‘welfare’ has a wider meaning not to mention the confusion it could cause with player welfare. We also do not use the title ‘Youth Officer.’

34. Where can I find the most up to date Child Safeguarding Policy?



The



most up



to date



guidance



documents can be found here:

<https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-safeguarding-and-protection/child-safeguarding-policy>. The current Child Safeguarding Policy, previously named the Code of Behaviour (Underage) is the Policy that is referred to throughout the Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding process.

35. What is a Designated Liaison Person?

The club Designated Liaison person is responsible for ensuring the reporting of allegations or concerns of abuse to Tusla (ROI) or Gateway Services Team at the Health and Social Care Trusts (NI) and/or An Garda Síochána/Police Service of Northern Ireland, having established reasonable grounds for concern. Should a Club or County Committee fail to appoint a DLP, the role automatically falls to the Chairperson of the Club or County Committee.

36. Who is responsible to ensure a Child Safeguarding Hearings Committee is established?

It is the responsibility of the Club Executive Committee to ensure a Child Safeguarding Hearings Committee is in place.

37. What is a Mandated Person?

A Mandated Person has a legal obligation to report harm of children as per legislation. There are 4 mandated persons employed for the purpose of performing the child welfare & protection functions within each of our Associations in accordance with their safeguarding employment roles:

GAA/Rounders: 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)

As per the Children First Act 2015 and the requirements of our Child Safeguarding Statement, each Club is required to maintain a list of members who, if known, and in accordance with the Children First Act 2015 are specified as mandated persons, regardless of what role (if any), they hold in the Club (i.e., teachers, Gardaí etc.) A list of roles a Mandated person may hold can be accessed [here](#)

38. Do clubs appoint a mandated person within the club?

No, clubs do not appoint a Mandated Person. Please see question 39.





39. Are clubs obligated to keep a list of people in the club who are by their profession mandated persons?

Yes, each club must retain a list of members who, if known, are mandated persons in accordance with the Act. This list should be retained by the Club Children's Officer as the contact person for the Child Safeguarding Statement. A list of roles a Mandated person may hold can be accessed [here](#) .

### **Vetting, Safeguarding and Coaching related queries**

40. Can I get a record of Vetting records for my County/Club?

The club children's officer can now [export a vetting list](#) on Foireann under 'membership' section. Go to the filter option and select yes for " has completed vetting". Then Click on bulk actions and export filtered members. This will pull a list for you of all those vetted, and you can see their expiry date.

41. How often is Re-Vetting required?

Vetting is required to be updated every three years

42. When volunteers apply for Vetting, does it matter if people apply through LGFA or the GAA?

No, the GAA now administers vetting for all Gaelic Games Associations.

43. Can I get a record of Safeguarding Training records for my County/Club?

The club children's officer can now [export a safeguarding list](#) on Foireann under 'membership' section. Go to the filter option and select yes for " has completed safeguarding". Then Click on bulk actions and export filtered members. This will pull a list for you of all those who completed safeguarding, and you can see their expiry date.

44. Are coaches who are waiting to complete the face to face/practical element coach training considered to have a coaching qualification?

No, coaches who have yet to complete the practical element of a Coaching Course have not fully completed their course and are therefore considered not to have obtained the qualification.

45. There are assistant coaches in our club who are waiting to complete Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games courses when they become available. Can these assistant coaches assist before their course takes place?

No, Coaches who have not completed a minimum of a ICGG course cannot assist in coaching as they are not qualified.



46. What is the minimum coaching course requirement to become a coach?

At minimum, Coaches must complete the Introduction to Coaching Gaelic Games level course. Camogie only accept Hurling foundation or the Introduction to Gaelic Games certs.