

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING POLICY FOR GAELIC GAMES

This policy is part of the Safeguarding Statement for Gaelic Games under the *Children First Act 2015*, *Children's First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)*, *the Children (NI) Order 1995*, *Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy and Procedures and Practice* and as required by our Association Rules. It was reviewed and approved by the Child Safeguarding Committee on the 26th June, 2025.

It is highlighted in Section 11(3) Children First as being mandatory and is required for whatever level of child safeguarding engagement one has in the Association. While we previously maintained this level of training as part of our good practice standards and included it as part of basic coaching qualification requirements, safeguarding training is now mandatory in law. This policy includes a list of training workshops available for specific roles within the Gaelic Games Associations.

Different levels of Child Safeguarding Training (see below) are now in place in Gaelic Games. Attendance at any of the workshops depends on the role an individual has in any of our Associations. Training is delivered in workshop format, with each session lasting three hours unless specified otherwise below. The provision of Online Gaelic Games safeguarding training shall be permitted under the direction of the Child Safeguarding Committee.

This policy sets out the accepted Safeguarding Workshops for all Gaelic Games Associations together with any specific requirements for attendance and renewal of certification.

Renewing Safeguarding certificates

Safeguarding training requires renewal every 3 years unless specified below.

N.B. If you do not hold a *valid safeguarding training certificate, you cannot continue in your role until you refresh your training.

The Club (and/or County where applicable) & individual are responsible to ensure that appropriate training has been completed and is valid.

*Valid certificate refers to a Gaelic Games certificate issued in respect of attendance at a Child Protection in Sport (Safeguarding 1) programme or the Sport Ireland or Sport NI equivalent certificate or the certificate issued following satisfactory completion of the Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher programme (where appropriate to complete – see below)

All Safeguarding certificates 1,2 and 3, are valid for a maximum of three years.

ROLES THAT REQUIRE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Role	Safeguarding 1 Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop)	Safeguarding 1 E-learning Refresher Module (See pre-conditions)	Safeguarding 2 (Children's Officer Workshop)	Safeguarding 3 (Designated Liaison Person Workshop)	Cúl Camp Assistant Programme (Aged 16/17 - See pre- conditions)	Referees Inservice Module	Child Safeguarding Policy – Dealing with Alleged Breaches
Team Management & Backroom for underage teams(Including S&C, Physio etc.)	√	√					
Club/County Executive Member	√ (Preferable)	√ (Preferable)					√
Designated Liaison Person/ Deputy DLP/ Chairperson	√	√	√ (optional)	√			
Club and County Children's Officer	√	√	√	√ (optional)			√
Staff	√	√					
Mandated Person	√	√		√			
Scór/Cultural	√	√					
Child Safeguarding Hearings Committee (Club & County)	√	√					√
Determining Committee (Club & County)	√	√					√
First Aiders	√	√					
Other Volunteers	√ (optional)						
Parent	√ (optional)						
Referee						√	
Cúl Camp Assistant (Aged 16/17 - See pre- conditions)	√ (Preferable)				√		
Nursery Coach (4- 6 year olds)	√	√					
Coach with U18's and on adult team	√	√					

OUTCOMES FROM SAFEGUARDING 1

- Implement best practice in protecting the welfare of participants through our Child Safeguarding Policy
- Create a child-centred environment within the Association
- List categories of abuse and indicators associated with abuse
- Make a report to the appropriate Statutory Authority
- Make a report to a Designated Liaison Person, and/or Association's Mandated Person

GAELIC GAMES ACCEPTED WORKSHOPS

The following are accepted as valid Safeguarding 1 certificates once pre-conditions are met:

- 1 Gaelic Games – Safeguarding 1 Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop (3 hour face-to-face or Virtual workshop with a qualified Gaelic Games Tutor)
- 2 Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 eLearning online Refresher Programme (See pre-conditions below)
- 3 Sport Ireland/Sport NI Child Welfare & Protection Awareness Safeguarding 1 Workshop (participants who rely on this certificate **MUST** complete the Gaelic Games Refresher Programme – see details below)
- 4 Integration Workshop (See pre-conditions below)

1. GAELIC GAMES - SAFEGUARDING 1 CHILD PROTECTION IN SPORT AWARENESS WORKSHOP (3-HOUR FACE-TO-FACE OR VIRTUAL WORKSHOP, WITH A QUALIFIED GAELIC GAMES TUTOR)

Certification validation period = This certificate lasts for 3 years from the date of issue

Who needs to attend? Any individual who has a role with young people must be in possession of a valid Safeguarding certificate. Any participant aged 16/17 years of age is not permitted to attend a Virtual Workshop, and in order to attend a Face to Face workshop must submit a parental consent form prior to attending the workshop (this must be retained by the Club Children's Officer or organiser of the workshop for 21 days)

Renewal: Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 certificate may be renewed by completing;

- Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 (3-hour workshop with qualified Gaelic Games tutor)

Or

- Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher (e-learning module – **ONLY** if your last certificate is for a 3-hour workshop with a qualified Gaelic Games tutor - see next)

2. GAELIC GAMES SAFEGUARDING 1 ELEARNING ONLINE REFRESHER PROGRAMME

You can complete the Gaelic Games online refresher programme if:

- You have a valid Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 certificate delivered by a qualified Gaelic Games tutor dated within the last 3 years

or

- You have a valid Safeguarding 1 Sport Ireland or Sport Northern Ireland certificate dated within the last 3 years

Certification Validation period = within a 3 year period of completion of a Gaelic Games 3 hour workshop

or

Upon completion of a Sport Ireland or Sport NI workshop (please note that the refresher certificate will only remain valid until the expiration date of the original certification)

Renewal: Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher certificates may only be renewed by attendance at a Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 3-hour workshop with a qualified Gaelic Games tutor.

Link for e-learning module; <https://learning.gaa.ie/node/283509>

3. SPORT IRELAND/SPORT NI CHILD WELFARE & PROTECTION AWARENESS SAFEGUARDING 1 WORKSHOP

Members who present a Safeguarding 1 certificate obtained via Sport Ireland/Sport NI must also complete the Gaelic Games online refresher programme (details above)

N.B. Upon completion of the Gaelic Games online Refresher course, the validity of the certification will align with the original expiration date of the Sport Ireland/Sport NI Safeguarding 1 certificate, regardless of when the refresher is taken. For example, if a member completed the Sport Ireland/Sport NI Safeguarding 1 workshop in January 2020 and then completes the Gaelic Games online refresher in January 2021, the refresher certificate will only be valid until January 2023, in line with the original certification period.

4. COACHING AND SAFEGUARDING INTEGRATED WORKSHOP

Certification validation period= The Coaching element of this workshop only needs to be completed once. The Safeguarding element must be updated every 3 years from the date of issue

Who needs to attend? Individuals who are getting involved in Coaching for the first time may attend this workshop

Renewal: The Coaching element does not need to be renewed. The Safeguarding element may be renewed by completing:

- Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 (3-hour workshop with qualified Gaelic Games tutor)

Or

- Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher (e-learning module – see above for more information)

ADVANCED SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOPS – ROLE SPECIFIC ARE OUTLINED AS FOLLOWS;

**SAFEGUARDING 2 (CLUB CHILDREN'S OFFICER WORKSHOP
– FACE TO FACE WITH QUALIFIED GAELIC GAMES TUTOR)**

Outcomes from Safeguarding 2;

- Implement best practice in protecting the welfare of underage players
- Create a child-centred environment within the club
- Understanding and awareness of Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Structures
- Reflect on the Club Children's Officer role & develop an action plan
- Understand how to communicate with young people
- Deal with Child Safeguarding Policy, breaches and manage Safeguarding issues

Who needs to attend? Both Club and County Children's Officers must attend the Gaelic Games Safeguarding 2 – Club Childrens Officer Workshop, and must be vetted and hold a valid Safeguarding 1 Workshop Certificate.

Validation period = 3 Years

Renewal: Safeguarding 2 certificate may only be renewed by attendance at Gaelic Games Safeguarding 2 CCO face to face workshop with qualified Gaelic Games tutor.

**SAFEGUARDING 3 (DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON WORKSHOP
– FACE TO FACE WITH QUALIFIED GAELIC GAMES TUTOR)**

Outcomes of Safeguarding 3;

- Awareness of Legislation
- Understanding and awareness of Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Structures
- Understanding of your role as Designated Liaison Person
- Understanding of dealing with Allegations & Concerns of Abuse
- Understanding and awareness of communications with Parents/Agencies as appropriate
- Understanding and awareness of Reporting Procedures

Prerequisite: Valid Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 or valid Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 Refresher certificate

Certificate Validation period = within a 3 year period

Renewal: Safeguarding 3 may only be renewed by attendance at Gaelic Games Safeguarding 3 (face to face workshop with qualified Gaelic Games tutor)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

CÚL CAMP ASSISTANT SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Validation period = 1 year

Mandatory attendees: person appointed to role of Cúl Camp Assistant if they do not already have a valid Safeguarding 1 Certificate

Renewal: If in the role of Camp Assistant in a different calendar year, the workshop must be repeated

N.B. This programme does not replace Safeguarding 1 (i.e. if a Cúl Camp Assistant becomes a Coach working with children in any of our Associations, a full Safeguarding 1 workshop must be attended)

REFEREE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Prerequisite: Nil

Duration of Workshop: It is a Safeguarding module built in as part of training for referees.

Expected attendees: any person taking on the role of a referee (excluding young whistlers who are under 16)

Renewal: Inservice to be undertaken every year by Referees

The Referees Administrator and County Children's Officer should work together to ensure that all referees complete this module each year, maintaining full compliance with the Safeguarding Training Policy.

Footnotes: Notwithstanding the mandatory requirement for participants to attend the Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 workshop.

1. It is the responsibility of the individual and club (and County where applicable) to ensure that anyone working with, or who has interaction with, or who is involved in the planning/administration of activities or events with children and young people in our Associations, holds a valid Gaelic Games accepted Safeguarding 1 certificate and also fulfils any other Safeguarding Requirements
2. If a member of any Gaelic Games Associations presents a Safeguarding 1 certificate from Sport Ireland/Sport NI or other LSP, the member will be obliged to complete the Gaelic Games Online Safeguarding Refresher programme prior to commencing their role with the relevant Gaelic Games Association. The purpose of this is to ensure that those who work with children and young people receive relevant information on our own Gaelic Games safeguarding policies or practices, our reporting procedures, our structures and on the role of Gaelic Games Children's Officers and DLPs in our Associations.
3. If a member of any Gaelic Games Associations presents a Safeguarding 1 Refresher certificate from Sport Ireland/Sport NI, the member will also be obliged to complete the Gaelic Games Online Safeguarding Refresher programme in order to be compliant with Gaelic Games Safeguarding Training Policy
4. Our Children's Officers and our Designated Liaison Persons in our Associations are required to have a valid Safeguarding 1 Certification as well as attend the relevant Gaelic Games workshop in order to receive information specific to their role as Gaelic Games Children's Officers and DLPs in our Associations and in order to be fully appraised on our own Gaelic Games safeguarding policies or practices, our reporting procedures and structures.

Should a Gaelic Games Children's Officer or Designated Liaison Person present with a certificate of attendance from an LSP or a Sports NGB Safeguarding 2 (Children's Officer) or Safeguarding 3 (DLP) workshop, that is within the three years recognition period, and the individual has yet to attend the Gaelic Games Associations Safeguarding 2 or Safeguarding 3 workshop, their Club shall accept this certificate and permit the relevant Officer to carry out their role as per organisational requirements.

Children's Officers and or Designated Liaison Persons who present with a Safeguarding 2/Safeguarding 3 certificate of attendance from an LSP or a Sports NGB shall subsequently be required to attend a Gaelic Games Associations Safeguarding 2 or Safeguarding 3 workshop by agreement with their Club Executive.

5. Validation period commences from the date of workshop completion/date of certificate.
6. It is the responsibility of the attendee to ensure they are registered correctly on Tobar and are in receipt of a valid cert.
7. Attendance lists must be destroyed 28 days after a workshop takes place.