

International Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Optional Template

2026



Section 1 Club/County and Coaching Practices

What are the Risks?	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Any Extra Relevant Information	Reference to Policy/Guidance/Procedures	Who is responsible at Club/County/Regional Level?	Further Club/County/Regional actions required
EXAMPLE No child safeguarding training (or approved alternative for your jurisdiction/region)	EXAMPLE High	EXAMPLE Need to check for safeguarding training requirements in my jurisdiction	EXAMPLE International Safeguarding Training Policy for Gaelic Games	EXAMPLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Officer (CO) Coaching Officer Club/County/Region/Executive or Committee 	EXAMPLE Arrange Safeguarding workshop for non-compliant coaches Seek verification of attendance
No child safeguarding training (or approved alternative for your jurisdiction/region)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Safeguarding training Recruitment and Selection Code of Behaviour Appendices 		
No vetting/police or relevant jurisdiction/regional background checks (if this is not applicable in your jurisdiction, a self-declaration is required)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Recruitment and Selection Code of Behaviour Appendices 		

No coaching qualifications			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding policy • Coach Education Policy • Recruitment and Selection • Code of Behaviour 		
Inadequate supervision ratios (2:10)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Recruitment and Selection • Safe Management of Activities for Underage • Code of Behaviour • Appendices 		
Poor practice e.g. poor coach behaviour			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Code of Behaviour • Coach Education Policy • Complaints Procedure • Safeguarding Training • Appendices 		

No guidance for travelling/away trips or when hosting an activity			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Safe Management of Activities for Underage • Code of Behaviour • Safeguarding Training • GAA Social Media Guidelines 		
No gender balance amongst coaches			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Recruitment and Selection • Code of Behaviour • Safe Management of Activities for Underage 		
An Adult Club or any Adult Team with Juvenile members/under 18's on Teams not having child safeguarding policies and procedures in place e.g. International Child safeguarding Policy, relevant best practice, and			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Code of Behaviour • Recruitment and Selection • Role and Responsibilities • Safe Management of Activities for Underage 		

legislative/statutory requirements for your jurisdiction/state/Region.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Training • Appendices 		
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Please insert the relevant practice/guidance/policy/legislative requirements below relating to the above risks for your organisation/club/county/state/region or jurisdiction:

Any other comments:

Section 2 Complaints and Discipline

What are the Risks?	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Any Extra Relevant Information	Reference to Policy/Guidance/Procedures	Who is responsible at Club/County/Regional Level?	Further Club/County/Regional actions required
EXAMPLE No awareness of the International Child Safeguarding Policy sections on complaints, disciplinary policy, or procedures	EXAMPLE High	EXAMPLE New executive/committee was set up this year – policy to be circulated as soon as possible	EXAMPLE International Child Safeguarding Policy - Section on Dealing with Alleged Breaches of the Child Safeguarding Policy	EXAMPLE Club/County/Regional Executive or Committee	EXAMPLE Immediate action required to highlight this section of the policy
No awareness of the International Child Safeguarding Policy sections on complaints, disciplinary policies, or procedures			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Code of Behaviour • Complaints Procedure 		
No awareness of the child safeguarding standards/ guidelines for children in your jurisdiction (if applicable)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Roles and Responsibilities • Safeguarding Training 		

Not dealing appropriately with complaints or breaches of the International Child Safeguarding Policy			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Complaints Procedure 		
No understanding of how to report complaints			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Complaints Procedure 		
Club/County/Region have not established a Complaints Hearings Committee.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Complaints Procedure 		
Club/County/Region have not established a Determining Committee.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Complaints Procedure 		

Please insert the relevant practice/guidance/policy/legislative requirements below relating to the above risks for your organisation/club/county/state/region or jurisdiction:

Any other comments:

Section 3 Reporting Procedures

What are the Risks?	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Any Extra Relevant Information	Reference to Policy/Guidance/Procedures	Who is responsible at Club/County/Regional Level?	Further Club/County/Regional actions required
EXAMPLE No awareness of the required International Child Safeguarding Policy reporting procedures	EXAMPLE High	EXAMPLE New members. Children's Officer and DLP are to be made aware of the disciplinary procedures	EXAMPLE International Child Safeguarding Policy - Section on Dealing with Alleged Breaches of the Child Safeguarding Policy International Child Safeguarding Policy - Dealing with Allegations or Concerns of Abuse	EXAMPLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club/County/Regional Executive or Committee Children's Officers and DLP's 	EXAMPLE Circulate relevant policy/procedure documents to relevant personnel
No awareness of the required International Child Safeguarding Policy reporting procedures			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Complaints Procedure Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse Role and Responsibilities Safeguarding Training 		
No awareness of the relevant statutory/state/ regional/ jurisdiction			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Policy 		

reporting procedures for your club/County/region (if applicable)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement • Complaints Procedure • Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse • Role and Responsibilities • Safeguarding Training 		
No appointment of a Club or County/Regional Children's Officer			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Code of behaviour • Roles and Responsibilities • Safeguarding Training 		
No appointment of a Club or County/Regional Designated Liaison Person			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Code of behaviour • Roles and Responsibilities • Safeguarding Training 		
No Appointment of a Club or County/Regional Deputy Designated Liaison Person			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Code of behaviour • Roles and Responsibilities • Safeguarding Training 		

Not reporting any concerns of child abuse or child harm			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse • Role and Responsibilities • Safeguarding Training 		
Children and young people having no awareness of how to report a complaint or concern at Club/County/Regional level			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse • Role and Responsibilities • Safeguarding Training 		
Parents/Guardians having no awareness of how to raise a complaint or report a concern at Club/County/Regional level			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse • Complaints Procedure 		

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role and Responsibilities • Safeguarding Training 		
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Please insert the relevant practice/guidance/policy/legislative requirements below relating to the above risks for your organisation/club/county/state/region or jurisdiction:

Any other comments:

Section 4 Facilities

What are the Risks?	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Any Extra Relevant Information	Reference to Policy/Guidance/Procedures	Who is responsible at Club/County/Regional Level?	Further Club/County/Regional actions required
EXAMPLE Unauthorised access to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. while in use by children (if applicable)	EXAMPLE High	EXAMPLE Coaches'/Mentors/ Trainers/Relevant Personnel to be made familiar with guidance in the International Child Safeguarding Policy	EXAMPLE International Child Safeguarding Policy - Gaelic Games Associations Adult-Child Supervision and Coaching Ratios	EXAMPLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coaches Coaching Officer Committees and Persons in charge Club/County/Regional Executive/Committee Children's Officer 	EXAMPLE All Coaches will be sent the relevant policy and asked to revise content
Unauthorised access to changing rooms, the gym facility, the showers, and toilets etc., while in use by children (if applicable)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Policy Safe Management of Activities for Underage Code of behaviour Appendices 		
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers, warm up areas (if applicable)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Policy Safe Management of Activities for Underage Code of behaviour 		

Unauthorised photography, filming, streaming, and recording and analysis			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Safe Management of Activities for Underage • Code of behaviour • GAA Social Media Guidelines 		
No awareness of the missing child or child found on site procedures			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Safe Management of Activities for Underage • Code of behaviour • Safeguarding Training 		
No checks conducted by the club/county/region when hiring facilities to ensure that appropriate safeguarding procedures are being put in place			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Safe Management of Activities for Underage • Code of behaviour 		

Please insert the relevant practice/guidance/policy/legislative requirements below relating to the above risks for your organisation/club/county/state/region or jurisdiction:

Any other comments:

Section 5 Recruitment

What are the Risks?	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Any Extra Relevant Information	Reference to Policy/Guidance/Procedures	Who is responsible at Club/County/Regional Level?	Further Club/County/Regional actions required
EXAMPLE Recruitment of inappropriate people and unqualified people in roles e.g. Coaches	EXAMPLE High	EXAMPLE The Vetting for 2 coaches is due to expire in the next few weeks. Coaches have been advised to reapply as soon as possible as per jurisdiction requirements	EXAMPLE International Child Safeguarding Policy - Recruitment and Selection	EXAMPLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club/County/Regional Executive/Committee Children's Officer Coaching Officer 	EXAMPLE Continue to review on an ongoing basis. Proof of adherence required.
The recruitment of inappropriate people and unqualified people e.g. Coaches			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Recruitment and Selection Code of Behaviour Appendices 		
No vetting/police checks or background checks (or self-declaration if not applicable) for relevant personnel (or checks relevant			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Policy Child Safeguarding Statement Recruitment and Selection Code of Behaviour Appendices 		

to your jurisdiction/region)					
No safeguarding training (or accepted alternative in your jurisdiction) as part of recruitment procedures			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • Safeguarding training • Recruitment and Selection 		
No role descriptions for those working with children			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Recruitment and Selection • Code of behaviour 		

Please insert the relevant practice/guidance/policy/legislative requirements below relating to the above risks for your organisation/club/county/state/region or jurisdiction:

Any other comments:

Section 6 Communications

What are the Risks?	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Any Extra Relevant Information	Reference to Policy/Guidance/Procedures	Who is responsible at Club/County/Regional Level?	Further Club/County/Regional actions required
<p style="text-align: center;">EXAMPLE</p> <p>No awareness of or no communication of the International Child Safeguarding Policy to members and visitors</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EXAMPLE</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EXAMPLE</p> <p>The club/county/region is aware that Child Safeguarding Statements must be publicly displayed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EXAMPLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement • International Child Safeguarding Policy 	<p style="text-align: center;">EXAMPLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club/County/Regional Executive/Committee • DLP's • Children's Officer 	<p style="text-align: center;">EXAMPLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement to all members explaining its purpose
No awareness of or no communication of the International Child Safeguarding Policy to members and visitors			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Child Safeguarding Statement • GAA Social Media Guidelines • Roles and Responsibilities 		
Underage players inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones, and other devices while at Gaelic Games Associations' activities or on our premises			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • GAA Social Media Guidelines • Safe Management of Activities for Underage 		

Inappropriate communications with underage players via social media, texting, digital device, or other manner			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • GAA Social Media Guidelines • Safe Management of Activities for Underage • Safeguarding Training 		
No awareness of the social media policy and streaming policy of underage games			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • GAA Social Media Guidelines • Safe Management of Activities for Underage • Safeguarding Training 		
No understanding of the risk of abuse through online harm, social media, and inappropriate use of photography			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • GAA Social Media Guidelines • Safe Management of Activities for Underage • Safeguarding Training 		
Not having the Club/County Child Safeguarding			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy 		

Statement on display in the clubhouse or club/County grounds/website/ social media pages			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement • Role and Responsibilities • GAA Social Media Policy 		
Not ensuring that all children register with a club, not seeking the necessary medical awareness information and contact details for parents at the time of registration			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Code of Behaviour • Safe Management of Activities for Underage • Appendices 		
No consent/permission forms signed by parents/Guardians for underage players medical needs/permission to participate or photography, streaming/analysis, and travel consent			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Code of Behaviour • Safe Management of Activities for Underage • GAA Social Media Guidelines • Appendices 		

Please insert the relevant practice/guidance/policy/legislative requirements below relating to the above risks for your organisation/club/county/state/region or jurisdiction:

Any other comments:

Section 7 General Risk of Harm

What are the Risks?	Risk Level (H/M/L)	Any Extra Relevant Information	Reference to Policy/Guidance/Procedures	Who is responsible at Club/County/Regional Level?	Further Club/County/Regional actions required
EXAMPLE No awareness of harm, harm not being recognised	EXAMPLE High	EXAMPLE New coaches may not be familiar with the Association's safeguarding undertakings and the content of the Club/County/Regions' Child Safeguarding Statement	EXAMPLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement International Child Safeguarding Policy Child Safeguarding Training 	EXAMPLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DLP Children's Officer Team Coaches 	EXAMPLE Coaches and mentors are always vigilant and review the policy documents on an ongoing basis. The Club/County/Regional Executive/Committee will continue to emphasise and implement this policy.
No awareness of harm, harm not being recognised			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Policy Child safeguarding statement Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse Safeguarding Training 		
Harm caused by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child to child Coach to child Volunteer to child Member to child 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Policy Child safeguarding Statement Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse Safeguarding Training 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor to child • Adult to child 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse • Safe Management of Underage Activities 		
Bullying Issues. Not having an Anti-Bullying Statement on display			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Anti Bullying Policy • Safeguarding Training • Code of Behaviour 		
General behavioural issues e.g. poor coach behaviour			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Coach Education Policy • Safeguarding Training • Code of Behaviour • Complaints Procedure 		
Other risks of harm related to specific or additional needs of underage players or teams			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Policy • Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse • Safeguarding Training • Child Safeguarding Statement 		

Please insert the relevant practice/guidance/policy/legislative requirements below relating to the above risks for your organisation/club/county/state/region or jurisdiction:

Any other comments:

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

Club/County/Regional Chairperson: ?

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Club/County/Regional Children's Officer:

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Explanation of Headings and Terminology

☐ **Potential risk of harm and abuse to children:**

Potential risks of harm and abuse to children relate to risks from a child safeguarding perspective and not general health and safety risks. Your respective jurisdictions applicable state agencies for child protection, safeguarding standards for sport and related policies and procedures will outline risks of harm and your jurisdictions definitions of abuse. The International Child Safeguarding Policy outlines the definitions of abuse for the Gaelic Games Association. This risk assessment template identifies possible risks of harm. Your club/County and region can amend the template to be relevant for the service you are providing and for your jurisdiction.

☐ **Rate as High/Medium/low the likelihood of the identified risk happening**

When assessing risks, you must consider the likelihood of harm or abuse being caused and the impact of this upon children and young people. This can then be used to assess whether the risk is at a high, medium, or low likelihood of happening in your Club/County/Region.

High – certain or near certain that harm or abuse would be caused if the risk was not removed or interventions not having been put in place

Medium – the likelihood of harm or abuse is probable without intervention

Low – there is a low risk of harm or abuse, or this is relatively simple to prevent

☐ **Extra information (where applicable)**

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

☐ **Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedures**

These are the some of the policies, codes, guidance that the Gaelic Games Association has in place that if implemented could alleviate the risks:

- International 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

Please also refer to any applicable policy, guidance, and procedures relevant to your jurisdiction such as safeguarding standards for sport, child protections agency guidelines and procedures.

☐ **Who is responsible at Club/County/Regional level?**

Who is responsible at club, county, regional or national level for ensuring that the relevant policy or further actions etc. are implemented?

☐ **Further action required**

Please record how relevant actions may be implemented or if necessary, how identified risks can be monitored or reviewed. You may wish to include target dates or completion dates required to address any issues that arose as part of the Risk Assessment process.

Please be reminded that the risk assessment is your safeguarding plan for 2026.

Glossary of Terms

☐ **Coach:**

Coaches include coaches, managers, trainers, or others involved in the running of an underage team.

☐ **Executive/Committee:**

A Club/County or Regional Committee or Committee in charge

☐ **International Child Safeguarding Policy:**

Previously named International Code of Behaviour (Underage) and previously referred to as the 'Code.' It is a comprehensive framework for our overseas units that outlines essential good safeguarding practices, guidelines and policies that are mandatory for everyone involved in volunteering or working with underage players to ensure their protection and welfare.

☐ **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 should 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. If you do not have a premises, it must be shared with your membership and placed on your communication channels, such as a website.

☐ **Child Safeguarding Training:**

The Child Safeguarding Committee (Gaelic Games) developed a comprehensive child safeguarding training programme for those who, on our behalf, wish to work with children, whether it be as part of the delivery of our games or other activities. The Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 Workshop is available for delivery in-person or online and may be modified with the permission of the Child Safeguarding Committee, so as to be compatible with the statutory requirements and guidance in each jurisdiction. International units may be required to avail of alternative safeguarding training programmes and where this may arise it is accepted as an alternative to the Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 Workshop should be clarified with the Child Safeguarding Committee in advance.

❑ **Children's Officers:**

This Officer, appointed by Club, County or Regional Executive/Committees has a wide range of responsibilities including ensuring that all aspects of the International Child Safeguarding Policy are implemented, that those working with children are vetted or have had the relevant police background/working with children checks and have attended child safeguarding training or an acceptable alternative. 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 (DLP):**

The DLP is responsible for ensuring that the relevant reporting procedures are followed and known at Club/County or Regional level in line with your jurisdictions statutory requirements and the International Child Safeguarding Policy.

❑ **Mandated Person and National Designated Liaison Persons:**

In some jurisdictions a mandated person has the legal obligation to report harm of children. For our international overseas units, the mandated persons below are also the **National Designated Liaison Person** contacts to receive safeguarding complaints and concerns and can offer guidance and advice on all aspects of the International Child Safeguarding Policy.

GAA: Michelle Harte – nationaldlp@gaa.ie

LGFA: Paula Prunty - nationaldlp@lgfa.ie

Camogie: Roberta Farrell – nationaldlp@camogie.ie

Handball: nationaldlp@handball.gaa.ie

Rounders: - Michelle Harte – nationaldlp@gaa.ie