



Gaelic Games Associations' – International Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment  
and  
Child Safeguarding Statement 2026

## Frequently Asked Questions and Guidance Document

### Section 1: General Information

#### 1. What is a Risk Assessment?

A risk assessment is an exercise we carry out where our Clubs/County/Regional Executives or Committees and each of our Associations at national level must examine all aspects of our service from a safeguarding perspective and establish whether there are any practices or features of the service, such as games, training or the recruitment of coaches, that have the potential to put children at risk of harm. A risk assessment is mandatory under Rule and the joint International Child Safeguarding Policy (Previously International Gaelic Games Code of Behaviour (Underage)) and must be completed every two years. The two-year cycle is a legislative requirement in some jurisdictions.

#### 2. Who must complete the Risk Assessment?

The Risk Assessment applies to all clubs where Juveniles/persons under 18 years of age (NOTE: CONFIRM THE LEGAL AGE OF A GHILD IN YOUR JURISDICTION) are participating in our games or other activities. Clubs, including adult clubs, who have juvenile players on senior or other teams, **must** complete this process. Counties/districts or regions who have academy /developmental squads and teams or other activities for children and young people must also complete the Risk Assessment.

**Link:** [International Child Safeguarding Policy](#)

#### 3. What is a Child Safeguarding Statement?

A Child Safeguarding Statement outlines the policies and procedures which are in place to manage and minimise the risks that have been identified in the Risk Assessment. The 2026 Child Safeguarding template can be accessed via Foireann, following on from the full completion and successful submission of the Risk Assessment. It is automatically generated by Foireann. The Child Safeguarding Statement must also be updated every 2 years. The two-year cycle is a legislative requirement in some jurisdictions.

**Link:** [International Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Policy Statement](#)

**4. How often must we carry out a Safeguarding Risk Assessment and produce a Child Safeguarding Statement?**

All Clubs and County/Regional Executives or Committees are required to conduct a Risk Assessment and in turn develop a new Child Safeguarding Statement every 2 years. Although the next Assessment will take place in early **2027**, the 2026 International Risk Assessment is a pilot exercise for our International Units. Please consider the Risk Assessment as a working document and your **safeguarding plan**, that can be amended at any time and upon a material change in the Club/County/Region, e.g. a new Children's Officer.

**5. Can we amend the Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement to make it more relevant to our Club/County/Region?**

Yes. This is encouraged. Clubs and County/Regional Executives or Committees can amend the Risk Assessment template where applicable and/or to ensure relevance to your jurisdiction's statutory child protection legislation, safeguarding in sport guidance or policies. Please be reminded that the Risk Assessment relates to the potential risks of abuse and harm, and **not** general health and safety risks. Clubs and County/Regional Executives and/or Committees can add to the Child Safeguarding Statement but must not take away nor delete any details prepopulated in the Child Safeguarding Statement template.

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

When assessing risks, you must consider the likelihood of each possible risk 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 procedures/policies 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. The Child Safeguarding Policy and related procedures are in place

Link: [International Child Safeguarding Policy - Definitions of Child Abuse \(see page 9\)](#)

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

It is best to print the Child Safeguarding Statement on A3 paper, as not all content will fit on A4 or be clearly legible.

## **Section 2: Completing the Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement on Foireann**

### **8. How do I log into Foireann?**

Go to [Foireann](#) 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. The Risk Assessment will be visible on the dashboard of the individuals account as identified by your organisation.

### **9. How do I get Foireann access assigned to me as a 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>

### **10. Should a Club or County/Regional Children's Officer set up a separate profile/account on Foireann?**

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

### **11. Can I use personal email addresses rather than an official GAA Children's Officer email address?**

Foireann highly recommends that Club and County/Regional Children's 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's admin and vetting admin permissions from their account.

**Link: [International Child Safeguarding Policy - Role of the Children's Officer](#)**

### **12. How do I change my email on Foireann?**

It can be done via your 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 your current password. You will then get an email to the new email account to verify the email before you can re-gain access to Foireann.

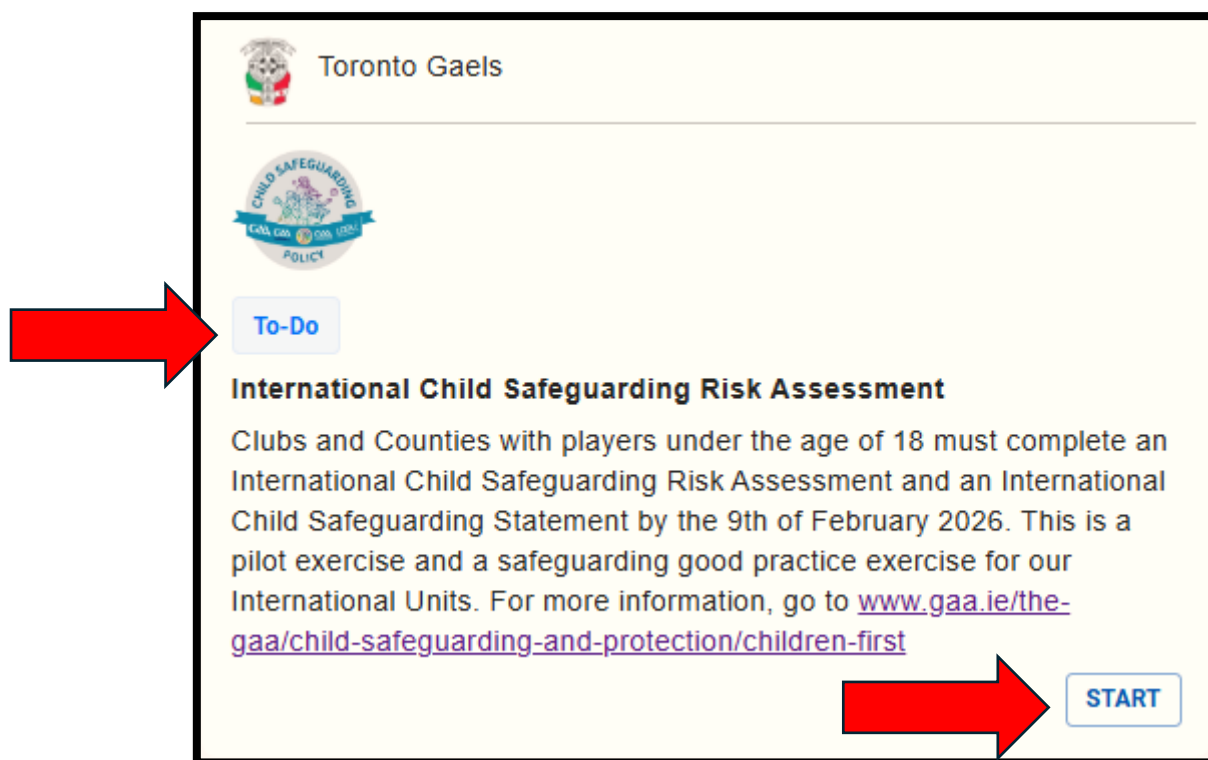
### **13. What happens if a Club/County/Regional Children's Officer steps down from their role?**

The only action required would be for the Club Admin to remove the club admin and vetting admin permissions for the Children's Officer who is stepping down. The Club/County/Region is required to complete a new Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement.

**14. Where can I access the mandatory Risk Assessment/Safeguarding Statement on Foireann?**

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/County/Region.

**To-Do** informs the user that the Risk Assessment is available but has not yet been entered into. Click on the **START** button to access the Risk Assessment.



**15. Where can I access the optional Risk Assessment Template?**

The optional International Risk Assessment template is available online, please scroll down to the Downloads section: [Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement](#) , and by request via [safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie](mailto:safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie)

**16. How do I complete the Risk Assessment?**

A **“START”** button will be visible on the users Foireann dashboard. Upon clicking this button, the user will be presented with a Disclaimer, after reading, click on **“GET STARTED”** and the user will then be presented with the Risk Assessment form, see image below.

**FOIREANN**

Survey

Section 1. Club/County Coaching Practices | Section 2. Complaints and Discipline | Section 3. Reporting Procedures | Section 4. Facilities | Section 5. Recruitment | Section 6. Communications | Section 7. General Risk of Harm

**International Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment**

Clubs and Counties with players under the age of 18 must complete an International Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and an International Child Safeguarding Statement by the 9th of February 2026. This is a pilot exercise and a safeguarding good practice exercise for our International Units. For more information, go to [www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-safeguarding-and-protection/children-first](http://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-safeguarding-and-protection/children-first)

**Assigned Committee Members**

**Children's Officer**  
No Assigned Position

**Designated Liaison Person**  
No Assigned Position

**Club Children's Officer (CCO) Official Email Address**  
No email address set

Please raise a support request to update the Children's Officer Official email address.  
To find out more about managing all your Organisation Details, check out the Foireann Help Centre.

**Section 1. Club/County Coaching Practices**

1.1 No child safeguarding training (or approved alternative for your county/jurisdiction/region)

Risk\*

☐ High

☐ Medium

**SAVE AS DRAFT**

Start with Section 1: Club/County Coaching Practices and complete the questions and steps outlined.

You will be able to save your progress and complete the Risk Assessment in multiple sittings by clicking on **SAVE AS DRAFT**. The Risk Assessment on Foireann is **only** available to print upon full completion and submission. This ensures full completion and submission and provides visibility at National Level.

Section 1. Club/County Coaching Practices ✓ | Section 2. Complaints and Discipline ✓ | Section 3. Reporting Procedures ✓ | Section 4. Facilities ✓ | Section 5. Recruitment ✓ | Section 6. Communications ✓ | Section 7. General Risk of Harm ✓

Upon successfully and fully completing each section, the relevant sections across the banner at the top of your screen will turn green.

Section 1. Club/County Coaching Practices ✓ | Section 2. Complaints and Discipline ✓ | Section 3. Reporting Procedures ✓

The image above shows that Section 1 has been successfully completed. Section 2 is incomplete and that section 3 has an answer in a text box that was typed out but not entered.

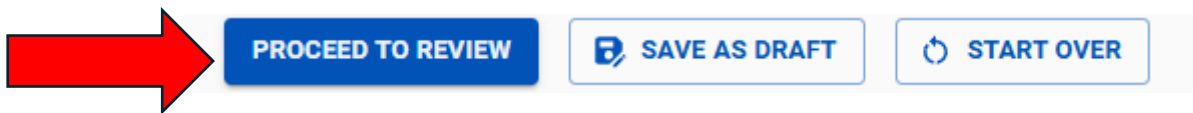


**All sections must be green in order to complete the Risk Assessment.**

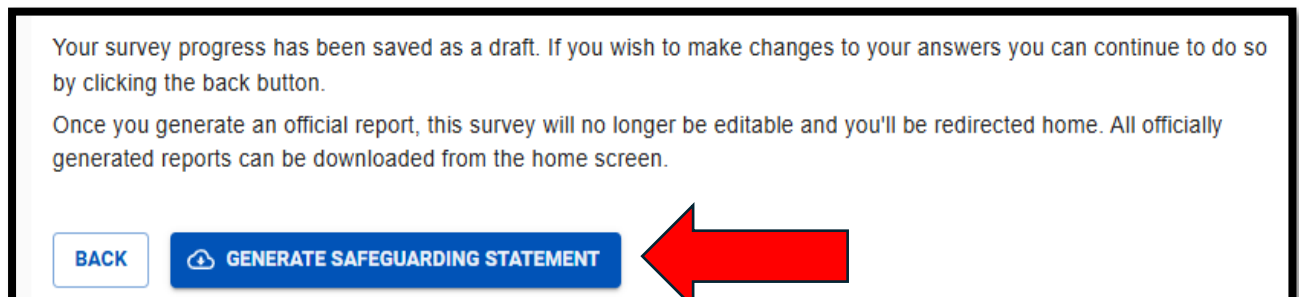
**Further action required/extra information \***

Further action required/extra information

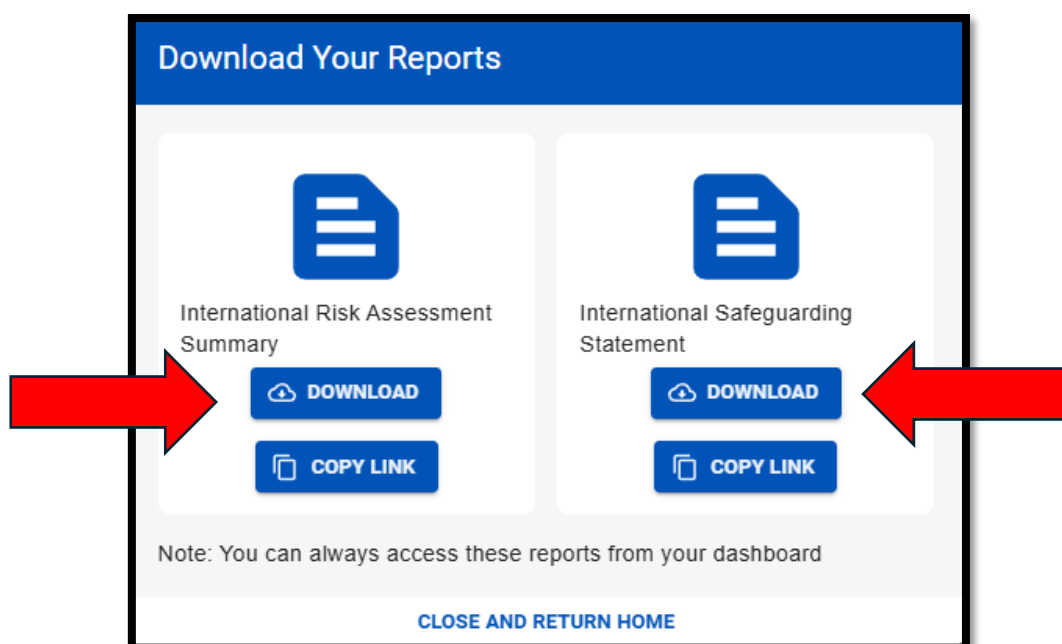
The above **'further actions'** question is mandatory. All mandatory questions have an asterisk beside them \*



When all sections are green, you will be asked to review your responses.



You have now successfully submitted your responses; next you must generate your Child Safeguarding Statement.



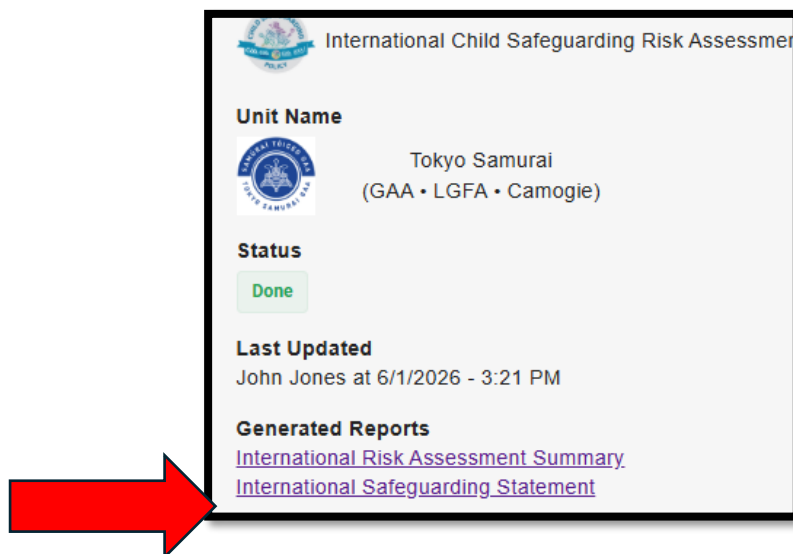
You will then be able to download a summary of your Risk Assessment and download your Child Safeguarding Statement.



The summary Risk Assessment report and Child Safeguarding Statement will now be available to view and print.



The 'To-Do' will now be visible as 'Done' on the users Dashboard.



The latest versions of the Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement are now available on the users Dashboard.

### **Section 3: Submitting the Risk Assessment and Statement on Foireann**

#### **17. I am the Club Children's Officer, our Club membership is on Foireann, but I do not have access to Foireann. How do I submit the form?**

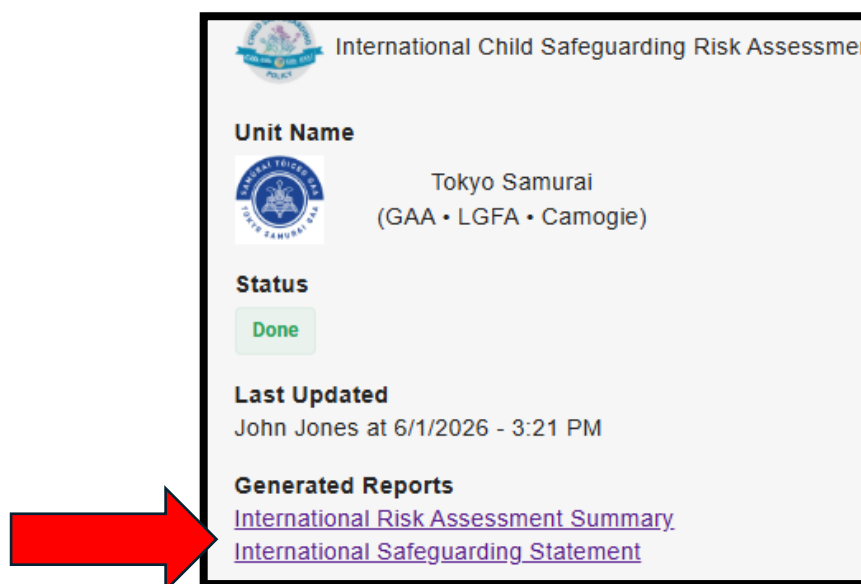
All Club Children's Officers should have access to Foireann, you require Admin access on Foireann. however, if you are having difficulties, please contact [safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie](mailto:safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie). However, a specific individual was identified for the purpose of the International Risk Assessment and will be granted permissions on Foireann using the email address supplied on the MS Form. The Statement *must* be signed by the Children's Officer.

#### **18. Where do Children's Officers get an official email address?**

Children's Officers can avail of an 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. The Children's Officer email address will then be created, and a temporary password issued which can be passed onto the Children's Officer.

#### **19. How do I download a copy of our Club Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement?**

Upon completing all questions (all sections across the top banner must be green) and submitting the Risk Assessment on Foireann, you will be able to download your Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement. Any previously completed report will be available on the users Dashboard, also see Section2.





## **Section 4: Completing the Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement Templates.**

### **20. How do I complete the Risk Assessment?**

Please take the time to see section 1,2, and 3. Please take the time to watch the recorded webinar for instructions.

### **21. How do I submit the Risk Assessment if I have no access to Foireann?**

The Risk Assessment **must** be completed on Foireann. If you do not currently have Foireann please contact [safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie](mailto:safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie) for assistance. The Risk Assessment Template (printable word version) is an optional worksheet and is available on the website - [Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement](#)

### **22. Who completes the Risk Assessment and signs off on the Child Safeguarding Statement?**

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

### **23. There are different sections in my club – GAA, Camogie, LGFA, Rounders, and Handball. 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 executive/committee registered on Foireann separately, then each Executive or Committee (section) must complete their own risk assessment and develop a Child Safeguarding Statement.

**Our understanding is that all of our International Units currently operate under a One Club, therefore just one Risk Assessment is required.**

### **24. Our club has a girl and a boy's section. Are two Risk Assessment and Safeguarding Statements required?**

If there are two Club Executives/Committees, two Risk Assessments and Safeguarding Statements are required. If there is only one Club Executive/Committee, only one Risk Assessment and Safeguarding Statement is required i.e. **One Club**

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

Yes. Clubs, including adult clubs, who have juvenile players, **must** complete this process.

## **Section 5: Explanation of Headings and Terminology and Glossary of Terms**

### **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, the required policies and procedures are in place, including the International Child Safeguarding Policy

### **Extra information (where applicable):**

Please use this section to detail any important information, club or County notes or comments 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, procedures and 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 your 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. A DLP is a legislative requirement in some jurisdictions.

### **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](mailto:nationaldlp@gaa.ie)

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

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

**Handball:** [nationaldlp@handball.gaa.ie](mailto:nationaldlp@handball.gaa.ie)

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

## **Section 6: Policy/Procedures**

### **26. Who does the International Child Safeguarding Policy apply to?**

The Child Safeguarding Policy applies to all persons under 18 years of age (**NOTE: CONFIRM THE LEGAL AGE OF A CHILD IN YOUR JURISDICTION**) who participate in our games or other activities and to those who work with them and assist them in any capacity on our behalf.

### **27. My club/county/region uses the title Child Welfare Officer or Youth 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.'

### **28. Where can I find the most up to date International Child Safeguarding Policy?**

The most up to date policy and guidance documents for International Clubs/Counties/Regions are available [here](#).

The current International Child Safeguarding Policy, previously named the International Code of Behaviour (Underage), is the Policy that is referred to throughout this document (Links) and the Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement process.

### **29. What is a Designated Liaison Person (DLP)?**

The Designated Liaison Person is the primary contact in the Club/County/Region for all members who have a child safeguarding or child protection and welfare concern. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP) should be available to take over the role of the Designated Liaison Person on their absence. Should a Club or County/Regional Executive or Committee fail to appoint a DLP, the role automatically falls to the Chairperson of the Club or County/Regional Executive/Committee.

DLPs are responsible for ensuring that child safeguarding reporting procedures are followed correctly and promptly. They also act as the liaison person with your jurisdiction/region's relevant statutory authorities for children.

### **30. Who is responsible for ensuring a Complaints Hearings Committee is established?**

It is the responsibility of the Club/County/Regional Executive/Committee to ensure that a Complaints Hearings Committee is in place.

**Link:** [International Child Safeguarding Policy - Appointment of a Child Safeguarding Hearings Committee \(see from page 10\)](#)

### **31. What is a Mandated Person?**

In some jurisdictions (Ireland) a Mandated Person has a legal obligation to report harm of children as per legislation.

The International Child Safeguarding Policy identifies the organisations Mandated Persons who are also the **National Designated Liaison Persons** as the individuals to whom our international units must also contact when reporting concerns of harm or abuse in their club/county/region. There are 4 National Designated Liaison 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:** Michelle Harte – [nationaldlp@gaa.ie](mailto:nationaldlp@gaa.ie)

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

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

**Handball:** [nationaldlp@handball.gaa.ie](mailto:nationaldlp@handball.gaa.ie)

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

## **Section 7: Vetting/Police Checks/Working with Children Checks, Safeguarding and Coaching related queries**

**Link:** [International Child Safeguarding Policy - Police Background Checks \(see page 6\)](#)

**Link:** [International Child Safeguarding Policy - Vetting Policy \(see page 21\)](#)



All persons working with underage players are required to undertake Vetting and/or Police background checks, as appropriate, **prior** to the commencement of their role(s) with young people in the Association. For some jurisdictions, vetting/police background checks are not a legislative requirement, if so, please contact [safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie](mailto:safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie) for further instructions.

You must undertake vetting/police background checks as per the legislative requirements and associated procedures in your jurisdiction.

### **32. How often is Re-Vetting required?**

By undertaking vetting/background Police checks/working with children checks within the jurisdiction(s) in which you operate requires you to be aware of the applicable re-vetting requirements of that jurisdiction. A Vetting or Police background check in the Gaelic Games Association is for a period of three years after the date of issue or if replaced by an updated vetting or background check received following a re-vetting within this time period. **(Note: The time frame for vetting may be different in your jurisdiction)**. The club must keep safe and secure a record of relevant vetting having been completed on file. Please be cognisant of the data protection guidelines and legislative requirements in your jurisdiction

### **33. Can I get a record of Safeguarding Training records for my Club?**

Via Foireann, safeguarding training lists can be exported for members who have completed a *Gaelic Games Association Safeguarding Workshop* **only**. This is not yet available for International Units.

[Exporting Coaching Qualifications & Safeguarding Certificates – Gaelic Athletic Association](#)

If members complete an acceptable alternative safeguarding workshop in your jurisdiction, the club must keep safe and secure a record of relevant safeguarding training having been completed on file. Please be cognisant of the data protection guidelines and legislative requirements in your jurisdiction. Safeguarding Training in the Gaelic Games Association is for a period of three years from the date of completion. **(Note: The time frame for safeguarding training validity may be different in your jurisdiction)**. Please be cognisant of the data protection guidelines and legislative requirements in your jurisdiction.

**Link:** [International Child Safeguarding Policy - Safeguarding Training Policy](#)

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

At minimum, Coaches must complete an Introductory Coaching level course. Coaches must attend an acceptable alternative coaching qualification relevant to their role and as recognised by their Association. Coaches who have not completed a minimum coaching qualification, cannot assist in coaching or coach as they are not qualified.

**Link:** [International Child Safeguarding Policy - Recruitment and Selection of Coaches, Supervisors and other Volunteers](#)