The Gaelic Games Associations operate a joint 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.

One specific aspect of the Code of Behaviour (Underage) is that due to the fact that we are recognised as providing a ‘relevant service for children,’ our Clubs & County Boards must undertake a risk assessment that considers the potential for harm that could come to these children while they are in our care. A risk assessment is an exercise we carry out where our Clubs, County Committees, and each of our Associations at national level 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. Experience shows that discussions on the risk of harm to children in our care inevitably leads to a greater awareness of the Child Safeguarding measures we undertake in our day-to-day work in the Gaelic Games Associations. Each unit e.g., our Clubs, must now discuss and complete this procedure at Club Executive level and must record, sign and date when this discussion took place. Conducting a risk assessment procedure shall now be required of all units, every two years and once completed the club must then agree on their Child Safeguarding Statement and display same prominently in the Club. This is a legal requirement.

Clubs who are registered on Foireann under a ‘One Club Model’ must complete the Risk Assessment as a One Club Model club. Clubs who are registered as GAA, LGFA, Camogie, Handball or Rounders only, must complete their own Risk Assessment. Independent/Amalgamated teams are not required to complete a Risk Assessment as their ‘parent club’ will account for them as part of their Risk Assessment.

A glossary of terms and an explanation of each heading is contained at the end of this Risk Assessment document which may assist you when completing this requirement, and a sample completed Risk Assessment and a Guidance document will be circulated to all clubs.

**Instruction for completion of the Risk Assessment**

The risk assessment must be discussed and completed by the Club Executive and then signed by the Chairperson and the Club Children’s Officer. The discussion, completion and subsequent signing must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. **The Club Children’s Officer must complete a copy of the fully completed and signed Risk Assessment 2023 to the Club profile on Foireann.**

The first task is to identify the possible risks in the extreme left-hand column. Clubs should then discuss the ‘Likelihood of the risk happening in the next column as Low (L) Medium (M) or High (H) and thereafter work across each column. When the Risk Assessment has been completed the Club may then agree on their Child Safeguarding Statement (template provided) When reviewing this document, please note that the risk assessment procedure and the subsequent Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Statement relates to the potential risk of abuse and harm to children when participating in our games and attending our events and not general health and safety risks which shall be covered under your separate H & S policy. Information supplied on the below Risk Assessment may be subject to quality assurance follow up by the Gaelic Games Associations or statutory authorities.

The Child Safeguarding Statement 2023 (Section 11 (1b) Children First Act 2015) must be completed following and based on this Risk Assessment 2023. Club are required to develop and put on prominent display (on club social media, website, clubhouse etc.), a Child Safeguarding Statement that outlines the policies and procedures which are in place to manage and minimise the risks that have been identified. You may download the Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Template Statement on Foireann

**Foireann**

Risk Assessments & Safeguarding Statements must be completed on Foireann [**here**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hrxFrNSvpUKfwz6H4bd_zky_0LfFg99NieH5bikZxqpUOVFIM0NOWEhTTlZCWElZU0VCUkpMQ1A2RS4u) by **5. 00 pm on 1st May 2023**. If there are any questions not covered in this handbook or the supporting resources, please contact the relevant association below:

GAA: Kayleen Iwasaki [safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie](mailto:safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie) / [kayleen.iwasaki@gaa.ie](mailto:kayleen.iwasaki@gaa.ie)

Camogie: TBC

LGFA: Aislinn Harkin [aislinn.harkin@lgfa.ie](mailto:aislinn.harkin@lgfa.ie)

Rounders: Áine Nic Lochlainn [childrensofficer.rounders@gaa.ie](mailto:childrensofficer.rounders@gaa.ie)

Handball: David Britton [david.britton.handball@gaa.ie](mailto:david.britton.handball@gaa.ie)

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| **SECTION 1 IDENTIFY AREAS OF RISK OF HARM** | | | | | |
| **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)** |
| **Use this section to include any risks not included in the below sections where the club have identified areas of risk of harm** | | | | | |
| **EXAMPLE**  **Ensuring all Coaches/Trainers/Mentors have the relevant qualifications (Safeguarding, Vetting/Access NI & Coaching Qualification)** | **EXAMPLE**  H | **EXAMPLE**  The Club Children’s Officers maintains and updates a list of coaches and their qualifications | **EXAMPLE**   * Code of Behaviour Ref: Recruitment Section | **EXAMPLE**   * Executive Committee * Children’s Officer * Coaching Officer | **EXAMPLE**  The club will continue to review on an ongoing basis |
| **Ensuring all Coaches/Trainers/Mentors have the relevant qualifications (Safeguarding, Vetting/Access NI & Coaching Qualification)** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Safeguarding training for coaches, Children’s Officers and Designated Liaison Persons and others who work with children which address**  **Association safeguarding procedures and the risk of harm to children (Section 2)** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Risk of harm when hosting and**  **activity or away trip** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Risk of harm through online abuse and social media** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Inappropriate/unauthorised photography, recording of activities etc** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Bullying of a child & anti bullying statement on display** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Risk of harm to a child by an adult or another child including definitions of abuse** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Awareness of reporting and recording concerns or allegations of abuse or of dealing with poor practice by those who work with children** |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **SECTION 2 CLUB & COACHING PRACTICES** | | | | | |
| **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)** |
| **EXAMPLE**    **Club coaches and other personnel with no child safeguarding training** | **EXAMPLE**  H | **EXAMPLE**  Need to check some new coaches & the 3 yr. safeguarding recognition for some may have expired | **EXAMPLE**   * Safeguarding Level 1 – Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop | **EXAMPLE**   * Children’s Officer (CO) * Coaching Officer * Club Executive | **EXAMPLE**  Arrange Safeguarding 1 workshop for non-compliant coaches  Seek verification of attendance |
| **Club coaches and other personnel with no child safeguarding training** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Club coaches with no coaching qualification** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Club Children’s Officer & Designated Liaison Person have attended relevant training** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Relevant Club personnel not vetted/no background checks** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Poor Practice**  **Inadequate Supervision**  **Inadequate of supervision ratios** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Lack of adherence with agreed procedures e.g., use of mobiles, texting, transport rules, photography.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **No guidance on travelling and away trips** |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **SECTION 3 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)** |
| **EXAMPLE**  **No awareness of complaints & disciplinary policy or procedures** | **EXAMPLE** H | **EXAMPLE**  New committee set up this year – policy to be circulated as soon as possible | **EXAMPLE**   * Code of Behaviour Sections 4 Dealing with Breaches of Code Section | **EXAMPLE**   * Club Executive | **EXAMPLE**  Immediate action required to highlight section |
| **No awareness of complaints & disciplinary policy or procedures** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Complaints not being dealt with appropriately** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Lack of awareness of reporting procedures** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Code of Behaviour Hearing Committee and Determining Committee established** |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **SECTION 4 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)** |
| **EXAMPLE**  **Awareness of organisational reporting procedures**  **Lack of knowledge of statutory reporting procedure**  **Failure to report concerns or allegations of harm or abuse** | **EXAMPLE**  H | **EXAMPLE**  New committee members, and Children’s Officers and DLP are to be made aware of disciplinary procedures | **EXAMPLE**   * Reporting procedures/policy * Coach education policy * Code of Behaviour Ref: Reporting Child Abuse Concerns Section * Guidance for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations and concerns of Abuse | **EXAMPLE**   * Club Executive National Safeguarding Committee * Mandated Person * DLPs/Children’s Officers * Other relevant Club personnel | **EXAMPLE**   * Circulate relevant policy/procedure documents to relevant personnel |
| **Awareness of organisational reporting procedures**  **Lack of knowledge of statutory reporting procedure**  **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 Person** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Club Designated Liaison Person (DLP) appointed** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Children’s Officer (with correct title) appointed and in membership of Club Executive Committee** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Concerns of abuse or harm not reported** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Not clear who Young Person (YP) should talk to or report to at Club level** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Parents are aware how to raise or report a concern** |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **SECTION 5 FACILITIES** | | | | | |
| **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)** |
| **EXAMPLE**  **Unauthorised access to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. while in use by children** | **EXAMPLE**  H | **EXAMPLE**  Coaches/Mentors/ Trainers to be made familiar with policy in the Code of Behaviour | **EXAMPLE**   * Code of Behaviour Ref: Supervision policy | **EXAMPLE**   * Coaches * Coaching Officer * Committees and Persons in charge * Club Executive * Children’s Officer | **EXAMPLE**  All Coaches will be sent the relevant policy and asked to revise content |
| **Unauthorised access to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. while in use by children.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Children sharing facilities with adults e.g., dressing room, showers, warm up areas etc.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Unauthorised photography, filming, or recording** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Missing or found child on site procedures** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **A check conducted by club when hiring facilities to ensure that appropriate safeguarding procedures have been put in place** |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **SECTION 6 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)** |
| **EXAMPLE**  **Recruitment of inappropriate people/ unqualified people in roles** | **EXAMPLE**  H | **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 | **EXAMPLE**   * COB – Recruitment & Selection of Coaches, Supervisors & other Volunteers Policy | **EXAMPLE**   * Club Executive * Children’s Officer * Coaching Officer | **EXAMPLE**  The club will continue to review on an ongoing basis. Proof of adherence required. |
| **Recruitment of inappropriate people/ unqualified people in roles** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Relevant Club personnel not vetted/no background checks** |  | *Vetting is required every three years* |  |  |  |
| **No role description or inadequate role descriptions for those working with children** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors** |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **SECTION 7 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)** |
| **EXAMPLE**  **No awareness or communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors** | **EXAMPLE**  H | **EXAMPLE**  The club is aware that Safeguarding Statements must be publicly displayed by the club | **EXAMPLE**   * Child Safeguarding Statement * Code of Behaviour – distribute | **EXAMPLE**   * Club Committee * DLPs * Children’s Officer | **EXAMPLE**  The new 2023 Statement 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 Code of Behaviour to members or visitors** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Underage players inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones, and 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** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Consent form for underage players with parental permission with relevant medical information & permission to participate, photographic permission & travel consent – all completed as required** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **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** |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **SECTION 8 GENERAL RISK OF HARM** | | | | | |
| **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)** |
| **EXAMPLE**  **Harm not being recognised** | **EXAMPLE**  H | **EXAMPLE**  New coaches may not be familiar with the Association’s safeguarding undertakings and the content of the Club’s Child Safeguarding Statement | **EXAMPLE**   * Safeguarding Policies * Child Safeguarding Training | **EXAMPLE**   * DLP * Children’s Officer * Mandated Person * Team Coaches | **EXAMPLE**  Coaches and mentors are vigilant at all times and review the policy documents on an ongoing basis.  The Club Executive will continue to emphasise and implement this policy. |
| **Harm not being recognised** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **General behavioural issues – Issues of bullying, vetting of staff/volunteers and issues on online safety etc.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **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 Code of Behaviour (Underage) Hearings Committee whose role it is to hear alleged breaches of the Code as referred to them? **Yes/No (See Section 4 of the** Code of Behaviour (Underage))

How many new\* coaches were recruited by the club in 2022 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 2022, what were the most common issues that were brought to the attention of your Club Children’s Officer or your relevant Club Committee? **Alleged breached by coaches (underage); Alleged breached by players (underage); Alleged breached 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**

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

**Club Chairperson: Club Children’s Officer:**

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

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

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

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

**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

* **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

* + Code of Behaviour (Underage) - <https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-safeguarding-and-protection/code-of-behaviour>
  + Recruitment Policy - <https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/la4f6k6ip7xfexhdswrk.pdf>
  + Vetting Policy - <https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/thmotie7o0pmwshshtx0.pdf>
  + Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Training Policy – (See appendix 10) <https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/q3hcopvrvizugcyq3e8s.pdf>
  + Guidance for Dealing & Reporting Allegations of Concerns of Abuse - <https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/xcf15mjugcljoqujvp4t.pdf>
  + GAA Social Media Guidelines - <https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/skjxfguu6n6lj6kx7fl2.pdf>
* **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
* **Code of Behaviour (Underage)**: Also referred to as ‘Code’ replaces the previous Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport from 1 March 2018
* **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>)

* **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
* **Child Safeguarding Statement**: This is an agreed Child Safeguarding Statement from all of 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 Code of Behaviour (Underage) 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:** Sinead McNulty - [mandatedperson@camogie.ie](mailto:mandatedperson@camogie.ie)

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

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