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| **GAA - Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Procedure 2018** | **Name of County:** |

**INTRODUCTION**

Following the commencement of recent child welfare legislation and the upgrading of our Code of Behaviour (Underage) we wish to inform all County Committees that a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment procedure must now be undertaken by the Gaelic Games Associations in relation to the potential for harm and abuse that could come to children while they are in our care and attending our games and activities. Once this has been completed at Club, County and National levels we are obliged to publically display a Child Safeguarding Statement that outlines the procedures in place that ensure, as far as practicable, that a child participating in our activities is safe from harm.

Previous experiences show 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-today work in the GAA. Such discussions also draw attention to our child safeguarding policies, our child centred activities and the legislation that is in place to assist us in our roles. Each unit e.g. County, must now discuss and complete this procedure at County Committee level and must record, sign and date when this took place and a copy must be retained by the County Children’s Officer.

Carrying out a risk assessment procedure shall now be an annual requirement and while it may be seen as having emerged due to recent legislative requirements the GAA has agreed that this procedure and the follow up displaying of a Child Safeguarding Statement shall now become a mandatory requirement for Clubs and Counties on an all-Ireland basis. This year we are obliged to complete the process by 11 March 2018.

As this is the first year for the risk assessment procedure you will note that each column in the following pages contains prepared text. However you may amend the text by agreement at County Committee level or you may identify additional columns for inclusion under each heading that may be particularly relevant to your County. A glossary of terms and an explanation of each heading is contained on page 6 of this Risk Assessment document which may assist you when completing this document.

One column, ‘Likelihood of it happening L/M/H’ remains to be completed. You should discuss this column and identify as a High, Medium or Low risk the likelihood of risk of harm happening if your County personnel fail to adequately address the risks as contained under each the headings in column 1, on the left hand side of each page. When reviewing this document we are reminded 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. Once this risk assessment process has been completed you must display the Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Statement in a prominent position in your premises or where possible in the external facilities you may use.

The Child Safeguarding Statement as agreed by the GAA, LGFA, Camogie, Rounders and Handball Associations may be downloaded at <http://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-welfare-and-protection/children-first>

**National Safeguarding Committee 2018**

**Gaelic Games Associations’ – Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment 2018 - COUNTIES**

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| **The potential risk of harm and abuse of children under each of the headings below is high.** | **Indicate the likelihood of any of the potential risks of harm occurring by rating them High Medium or Low** | **Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure** | **Who is responsible at**  **County level?** | **Further action required …** |
| **COUNTY & COACHING PRACTICES** |  |  |  |  |
| **County coaches and other personnel with no child safeguarding training** | **H** | * Safeguarding Level 1 – Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop | Children’s Officer (CO)  Coach  County Committees | *Arrange training*  *Seek verification of attendance* |
| **County coaches with no coaching qualification** |  | * Coach education policy * Recruitment policy | County Committees Coaching Officer | *Proof of qualification to be confirmed* |
| **Relevant County personnel not vetted/no background checks** |  | * Code of Behaviour Ref: Recruitment Section | County Committees Children’s Officer | *Review ongoing* |
| **Poor Practice**  **Inadequate Supervision**  **Lack of supervision ratios** |  | * Code of Behaviour (Underage) Ref: Coaching section * Supervision policy/ratios * Coach education policy * Safeguarding Level 1 | County Committees | *Review ongoing* |
| **Lack of adherence to procedures e.g. use of mobiles, texting, transport rules, photography.** |  | * Code of Behaviour Ref: Social Media section | Coach  Children’s Officer | *Review ongoing* |

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| **No guidance on travelling and away trips** |  | * Code of Behaviour Ref: Travelling and away trips sections | County Committees and event organisers | *Travelling and away trips sections* |

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| **Lack of adherence with miscellaneous procedures in our safeguarding practices (i.e. mobile, photography, transport)** |  | * Safeguarding policy * Complaints & disciplinary policy | Person in charge  County Committees Children’s Officer | *Ongoing review* |
| **COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINE** |  |  |  |  |
| **No awareness of complaints & disciplinary policy or procedures** | **H** | * Code of Behaviour Ref: Dealing with Breaches of Code Section | County Committees | *Immediate action required to highlight section* |
| **Complaints not being dealt with appropriately** |  | * Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy | County Committees | *Ongoing review* |
| **REPORTING PROCEDURES** |  |  |  |  |
| **No organisational reporting procedures**  **Lack of knowledge of statutory reporting procedure**  **Lack of knowledge of procedures**  **Failure to report concerns or allegations of harm or abuse** | **H** | * Reporting procedures/policy * Coach education policy * Code of Behaviour Ref: Reporting Child Abuse Concerns Section | National CP Committee  Mandated Parson  DLPs  County Committees  Other relevant County personnel | *Make policies and procedures available*  *Include in Safeguarding Training (L1)*  *Include in Coach Education Training* |
| **National Mandated Person (MP)**   * **Not appointed** * **No knowledge of MP** |  | * Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations & Concerns of Abuse * Code of Behaviour Ref: Reporting Child Abuse Concerns Section | Central Council  National Safeguarding Committee | *Publicise identity of Mandated Person*  *Train Mandated Person in their role* |
| **No County Designated Liaison Person (DLP) appointed** |  | * Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations & Concerns of Abuse * Code of Behaviour | County Committees  County DLP  National Safeguarding Committee | *Appoint and train DLP*  *Publicise identity of DLP* |
| **Concerns of abuse or harm not reported** |  | * Reporting procedures/policy * Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 | Mandated Person  DLP at County and National levels  County Committees | *Include in Safeguarding Training (L1)*  *Publicise names of CCOs, DLPs, MP(s)*  *Publicise internal and external reporting procedures* |
| **Not clear who Young Person (YP) should talk to or report to at County level** |  | * Code of Behaviour   Ref: Reporting Child Abuse Concerns | County Committees  Children’s Officer  County DLP | *Make names of CO, DLP and national MP known*  *Communicate this at all levels*  *Include in Child Safeguarding Training (L1)* |
| **FACILITIES** |  |  |  |  |
| **Unauthorised access to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. while in use by children.** | **H** | * Code of Behaviour Ref: Supervision policy | Committees and Persons in charge  County Committees Children’s Officer | *Clarify responsibilities before session starts* |
| **Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers, warm up areas etc.** |  | * Code of Behaviour (Underage) | Committees and Persons in charge  County Committee  Children’s Officer | *Plan with facilities management to create a suitable child centred environment In shared facilities* |
| **Unauthorised photography, filming or recording** |  | * Photography policy and use of devices in private zones | Committees and Persons in charge | *Enforce policy in private changing and wet areas* |

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| **Missing or found child on site** |  | * Code of Behaviour (Underage) | Committees and Persons in charge | *Make personnel aware of procedures* |
| **RECRUITMENT** |  |  |  |  |
| **Recruitment of inappropriate people** | **H** | * Code of Behaviour Ref: Recruitment Section | County Committees  Children’s Officer  Coaching Officer | *Review on an ongoing basis* |

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| **Relevant County personnel not vetted/no background checks** |  | * Code of Behaviour Ref: Recruitment Section | County Committees  Children’s Officer | *Review on an ongoing basis* |

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| **No role description or inadequate role descriptions** |  | * Code of Behaviour Ref: Recruitment Section | County Committees  Children’s Officer  Coaching Officer | *Check role description*  *Put supervision in place* |
| **Unqualified people in roles** |  | * Code of Behaviour Ref: Recruitment Section * Safeguarding 1 | County Committee  Children’s Officer  Coaching Officer | *Check qualification*  *Review on an ongoing basis* |

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| **Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors** |  | * Child Safeguarding Statement * Training policy | National Safeguarding Committee  County Committees  DLPs  Children’s Officer | *Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement* |

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| **COMMUNICATIONS** |  |  |  |  |
| **No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors** | **H** | * Child Safeguarding Statement * Code of Behaviour - distribute | Committee Committees  DLPs  Children’s Officer | *Display and Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement*  *Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate* |

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| **Unauthorised photography, recording of activities etc.** |  | * Code of Behaviour - Ref: Photography, images section * Child Safeguarding Training L1 | County Committee  Children’s Officer  Team coaches | *Enforce policy*  *Review on an ongoing basis* |

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| **Inappropriate photography & recording activities** |  | * Code of Behaviour – Ref Photography ,images section * Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 | Committee and persons in charge  Children’s Officer  Team coaches | *Enforce policy*  *Review on an ongoing basis* |
| **Underage players inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at Gaelic Games Association activities** |  | * Communication section in Code of Behaviour (Underage) * Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 | Committee and persons in charge | *Enforce policy*  *Review on an ongoing basis* |
| **Inappropriate communications with underage players via social media, texting, digital device or other manner** |  | * Communication section in Code of Behaviour (Underage) * Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 | County Committee  Children’s Officer  Team coaches | *Enforce policy*  *Review on an ongoing basis* |

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| **GENERAL RISK OF HARM** | | | | |
| **Harm not being recognised** |  | * Safeguarding policies * Child Safeguarding Training | DLP  Children’s Officer  Mandated Person  Team coaches | *Emphasise and implement policy*  *Review on an ongoing basis* |
| **Harm caused by**   * **child to child** * **coach to child** * **member to child** * **visitor to child** |  | * Safeguarding policies * Child Safeguarding Training | DLPs  Children’s Officer  Mandated Person  Team coaches | *Emphasise and implement policy*  *Review on an ongoing basis* |
| **General behavioural issues** |  | * Code of Behaviour (Underage) | Team coaches  Children’s Officers | *Take disciplinary action where necessary*  *Sign Code of Behaviour* |

**This Risk Assessment Procedure was discussed at the (County) Committee on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (date)**

**County Chairperson: County 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

* **Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure**

These are the policies, codes, guidance we have in place that if implemented could alleviate the risks

* **Who is responsible at Club/County/National?**

Who is responsible for ensuring that the relevant policy etc. is implemented?

* **Further action required**

This heading allows us to record how the response may be implemented or if need be 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. Currently under review.

* **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 County level
* **Mandated Person:** The GAA mandated, person who has a legal obligation to report harm of children as per legislation, is Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichíl. Contact: [mandatedperson@gaa.ie](mailto:mandatedperson@gaa.ie).