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 must now discuss and complete this procedure at County 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 County must then agree on their Child Safeguarding Statement to be put on prominent display. This is a legal requirement.

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 Counties.

**Instruction for completion of the Risk Assessment**

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

The first task is to identify the possible risks in the extreme left-hand column. County 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 County 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 based on and following the Risk Assessment. Counties are required to develop and put on prominent display (on social media, website, County grounds 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 by **5. 00 pm on 1st May 2023**. If there are any questions not covered in the Guidance document 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** | **Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure** | **Who is responsible at**  **County level?** | **Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)** |
| **EXAMPLE**  **Ensuring all County Coaches/Trainers/Mentors have the relevant qualifications (Safeguarding, Vetting/Access NI & Coaching Qualification)** | **EXAMPLE**  H | **EXAMPLE**   * Code of Behaviour Ref: Recruitment Section | **EXAMPLE**   * Executive Committee * Children’s Officer * Coaching Officer | **EXAMPLE**  The County will continue to review on an ongoing basis |
| **Ensuring all County Coaches/Trainers/Mentors have the relevant qualifications (Safeguarding, Vetting/Access NI & Coaching Qualification)** |  |  |  |  |
| **Safeguarding training for County 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 COUNTY & 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** | **Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure** | **Who is responsible at**  **County level?** | **Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)** |
| **EXAMPLE**    **County coaches and other personnel with no child safeguarding training** | **EXAMPLE**  H | **EXAMPLE**   * Safeguarding Level 1 – Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop | **EXAMPLE**   * Children’s Officer (CO) * Coaching Officer * County Executive | **EXAMPLE**  Arrange Safeguarding 1 workshop for non-compliant coaches  Seek verification of attendance |
| **County coaches and other personnel with no child safeguarding training** |  |  |  |  |
| **County coaches with no coaching qualification** |  |  |  |  |
| **County Children’s Officer & Designated Liaison Person have attended relevant training** |  |  |  |  |
| **Relevant County 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** | **Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure** | **Who is responsible at**  **County 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**   * Code of Behaviour Sections 4 Dealing with Breaches of Code Section | **EXAMPLE**   * County 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** | **Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure** | **Who is responsible at**  **County 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**   * 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**   * County Executive National Safeguarding Committee * Mandated Person * DLPs/Children’s Officers * Other relevant County 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** |  |  |  |  |
| **County Designated Liaison Person (DLP) appointed** |  |  |  |  |
| **Children’s Officer (with correct title) appointed and in membership of County Executive Committee** |  |  |  |  |
| **Concerns of abuse or harm not reported** |  |  |  |  |
| **Not clear who Young Person (YP) should talk to or report to at County 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** | **Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure** | **Who is responsible at County 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**   * Code of Behaviour Ref: Supervision policy | **EXAMPLE**   * Coaches * Coaching Officer * Committees and Persons in charge * County 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 the County 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** | **Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure** | **Who is responsible at County 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**   * COB – Recruitment & Selection of Coaches, Supervisors & other Volunteers Policy | **EXAMPLE**   * County Executive * Children’s Officer * Coaching Officer | **EXAMPLE**  The County will continue to review on an ongoing basis. Proof of adherence required. |
| **Recruitment of inappropriate people/ unqualified people in roles** |  |  |  |  |
| **Relevant County personnel not vetted/no background checks** |  |  |  |  |
| **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** | **Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure** | **Who is responsible at County 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**   * Child Safeguarding Statement * Code of Behaviour – distribute | **EXAMPLE**   * County Committee * DLPs * Children’s Officer | **EXAMPLE**  The new 2023 Statement is to be replace the old (blue) statement on the wall in the County Centre of Excellence 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** |  |  |  |  |
| **County Child Safeguarding**  **Statement on display on County grounds and uploaded to the county 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** |  |  |  |  |

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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** | **Reference to Policy, Guidance and Procedure** | **Who is responsible at**  **County level?** | **Further action required (please refer to relevant policy or procedure where applicable)** |
| **EXAMPLE**  **Harm not being recognised** | **EXAMPLE**  H | **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 County 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 County 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 County appointed a 3-person County 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 County in 2022 to work at underage level? (\*not previously involved in the County as a coach) **(Insert figure only – no text)**

In 2022, what were the most common issues that were brought to the attention of your County Children’s Officer or your relevant County Committee? Please rate all issues from 1-5, 1 being the least common issue and 5 being the most common issue **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

**Under 7**

**Under 8**

**Under 9**

**Under 10**

**Under 11**

**Under 12**

**Under 13**

**Under 14**

**Under 15**

**Under 16**

**Under 17**

**Under 18**

**N/A**

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

**County Chairperson: County Children’s Officer:**

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

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

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

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