



SECTION
02

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

RISK ASSESSMENT & CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

THIS GUIDANCE FORMS PART OF
THE CODE OF BEHAVIOUR (UNDERAGE) &
CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT



The Gaelic Games Associations must at all times ensure that we are vigilant and constantly aware as to the potential for harm that may come to a child when they are attending or participating in our games, at training or at other activities. Members and parents should be aware that we have adopted robust and relevant safeguarding policies, codes, guidelines and other practices that address the risk of harm.

We depend however on our coaches, parents, children and other club personnel to ensure that they are not only aware of these procedures but that they contribute to their implementation.

The Gaelic Games Associations have, in accordance with legislation and good practice guidance agreed that Clubs, Counties, shall undertake a Safeguarding Risk Assessment and shall following the Risk Assessment agree and publish a Child Safeguarding Statement which shall also constitute their Child Safeguarding Policy Statement.

Independent, combined and amalgamated teams, whether they be a combination of a number of teams in a County, Region or District, are not clubs per se, but the Children's Officer of these units may carry out a parallel risk assessment and submit the outcomes of their risk assessment to their County Children's Officer. These outcomes shall be subsequently considered and shall be included as appropriate as part of the County Risk Assessment process and reflected as required in the County Child Safeguarding Statement. Independent and amalgamated teams may adopt the County Child Safeguarding Statement or may agree their own Statement.

At a minimum the Risk Assessment must take place at least every two years following which the relevant unit shall then agree and display a Child Safeguarding Statement. The two year cycle is a legislative requirement in some jurisdictions and has been adopted as a good practice procedure by each of our Associations (GAA, LGFA, Camogie, Rounders and Handball). It is important to note that the risks referred to in this context relate to the risk of harm and not general health and safety risks.

The completion date for the Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement process is agreed by the Gaelic Games Associations and we provide user friendly templates, and other guidance, to assist our various units in completing these requirements.



WHAT IS A CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT?

The Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment is an exercise that requires each of our units to examine all aspects of our services, e.g. coaching, training, games, social activities, away trips, Scór etc. from a safeguarding perspective, and to establish whether there are practices or features in place that have the potential to put children at risk. As previously highlighted, the risk in this context is the risk of harm and not general health and safety risks.

THE RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS IS INTENDED TO ENABLE EACH OF OUR UNITS TO:

- Identify potential risks of harm
- Identify Association policies and procedures that have been adopted to minimise risk by responding in a timely manner to potential risks
- Review whether adequate precautions have been taken to eliminate or reduce these risks
- Identify any gaps in provision, if they exist, and how and when these gaps will be addressed

Upon completion, the Safeguarding Risk Assessment must be agreed by the relevant Club/County Executive or Committee and signed by the respective Chairperson and the Children's Officer.

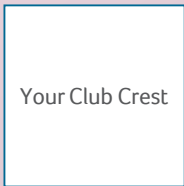
WHAT IS A CHILD SAFEGUARDING (POLICY) STATEMENT?

Before preparing your Child Safeguarding Statement, you must undertake and complete an assessment of any potential for harm to a child availing of your service, i.e. the 'risk assessment' as outlined above.

The next step is to produce a Child Safeguarding Statement, and the Association issues a template to assist in this process. 'The Statement' is a written statement that specifies the (safeguarding) services provided by our Associations and our units and the principles and procedures to be observed in order to ensure, as far as practicable, that a child availing of our service is safe from harm. It should set out any potential risk of harm to a child that you have identified in your risk assessment, and also state the procedures that are in place to reduce the identified risks.

Units may amend the Child Safeguarding Statement template insofar as it relates to facilities, named personnel, additional procedures or services that may be in place but must retain certain sections of the template that outline Association policies, procedures and legal requirements.

Upon completion, the Child Safeguarding Statement must be agreed by the relevant Club/County Executive or Committee, signed by the Children's Officer and must be displayed in a prominent place, e.g. in the clubhouse, noticeboard, websites etc.



Child Safeguarding Statement



Abbotstown GAA (not a registered club), Snughborough Road, Abbotstown, Dublin 15, D15K4PP

Abbotstown GAA Club (incorporating GAA, LGFA, Camogie, Handball and Rounders) in accordance with our Code of Behaviour (Underage), our policies, procedures and our legislative requirements has agreed this Child Safeguarding Statement, which is binding on our members.

The basic aims of the Gaelic Athletic Associations include fostering and developing our Gaelic Games and Irish cultural activities among young people and children. These games and related activities are organised and promoted by dedicated volunteers at Club, County, Provincial and National levels with the cooperation and support of an equally dedicated cohort of staff all

of whom are committed to the safeguarding of children and young people in our Association as we seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was agreed by the Abbotstown GAA Club Executive Committee on 16th March 2023

PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

This statement recognises that in accordance with legislative requirements, and our commitments in our Gaelic Games Code of Behaviour (Underage), (see QR Code 1), to safeguard all children regardless of race, ability, ethnicity or sexual orientation from harm, that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. The Code of Behaviour aims to ensure that children and young people have a positive, developmental and enjoyable experience of Gaelic Games and other activities and that they do so, as far as is practicable, in a safe and enjoyable environment in accordance with the Children First Act (2015) and the Children (NI) Order 1995.

RISK ASSESSMENT

In preparing this statement we have completed a risk assessment, available on request from our Children's Officer, which addresses the potential for harm* to children when they are participating in our games and attending our activities under the following headings:

- Identify Areas of Risk of Harm;
- Club/County and Coaching Practices;
- Complaints & Discipline;
- Reporting Procedures;
- Club Facilities;
- Recruitment;
- Communications and General Risk of Harm.

* Harm means in relation to a child - Assault, ill treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare or sexual abuse of a child.

RISK IDENTIFIED

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

Risk of harm when hosting and activity or away trip
Risk of harm through online abuse and social media
Inappropriate use of photography

Bullying of a child

Risk of harm to a child by an adult or another child including definitions of abuse

PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO ADDRESS RISKS

Gaelic Games Safeguarding Training programmes and policy

Code of Behaviour (Underage) Includes directives on; Recruitment, Vetting and Safeguarding Training; Guidance for Coaches, Parents & Supporters on Maintaining Good Practice & Behaviour; Hosting events, Away Trips & Transport; Social Media Guidance; Photography

Anti-Bullying Training & Statement

Guidance for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse

QR CODE



PROCEDURES

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been prepared in accordance with the legislative requirements contained in the *Children First Act 2015, Children's First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017), the Children (NI) Order 1995, Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice* and as required by our Association rules and Code of Behaviour (Underage).

PROCEDURES IDENTIFIED

The following procedures, addressed in our Guidance for Dealing with & Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse (QR Code 3) and Code of Behaviour (QR Code 1) in support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services and activities.

- Procedure in respect of the management of allegations against any member, non-member or staff/volunteer availing of our services (QR Code 3)
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and vetting of volunteers & staff to work with children and young people (QR Code 1)
- Procedure for provision of and access to Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Training and information including the identification of the occurrence of harm (QR Code 1)
- Procedure for the reporting allegations of abuse, protection or welfare concerns of a child to the Association, Tusla or Gateway Team, availing as applicable (QR Code 3)
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person i.e. the Club Children's Officer who is the relevant person appointed for the purpose of this statement (QR Code 1)
- Our Club shall maintain a list of membership who, if known, and in accordance with the Children First Act 2015 are specified as mandated persons, regardless of what role (if any), they hold in the Club.



The Gaelic Games Associations **Code of Behaviour (Underage) and Child Safeguarding Policy Statement** provides detailed guidance to our Clubs and other units on the minimum standards of good practice and behaviour that we seek from everybody, who on our behalf, work with children. The "Code" seeks to safeguard children and young people who participate in our games and attend our activities.

MANDATED PERSONS AND SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Abbotstown GAA Children's Officer	Áine Foley	childrensofficer.abbotstown.dublin@gaa.ie
Abbotstown Designated Liaison Person	Michael Rogers	(Cathaoirleach)
GAA/Rounders	Michelle Harte	mandatedperson@gaa.ie
Camogie	TBC	mandatedperson@camogie.ie
Handball	David Britton	mandatedperson.handball@gaa.ie
LGFA	Paula Prunty	mandatedperson@lgfa.ie

All policies and procedures listed above are available at www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-safeguarding-and-protection

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The Gaelic Athletic Associations and Abbotstown GAA are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and procedures that support our intention to keep children and young people safe from harm while availing of our service. This Statement, adopted and endorsed by Abbotstown GAA Club Executive Committee, shall be reviewed by **16th March 2025** or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.



Áine Foley Children's Officer





Produced by the Child Safeguarding Committee in association with
Cumann Lúthcleas Gael, Cumann Camógaíochta, Cumann Peil na mBan,
Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann and Comhairle Cluiche Corr na hÉireann.