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Child Safeguarding Statement

**The Gaelic Athletic Associations (GAA,** The basic aims of the Gaelic Athleticdedicated cohort of staff all of whom are

**LGFA, Camogie, Handball and Rounders)** Associations include fostering and developingcommitted to the safeguarding of

**in accordance with our Code of Behaviour** our Gaelic Games and Irish cultural activitieschildren and young people in our

**(Underage), policies, procedures and our** among young people and children. These Association as we seek to create a

**legislative requirements have agreed this** games and related activities are organised and safe environment for young people

**Child Safeguarding Statement which is** promoted by dedicated volunteers at Club,to grow and develop.

**binding on all members and units of our** County, Provincial and National Levels with

**Associations.** the cooperation and support of an equally

# PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM

# This statement recognises that in accordance with legislation and with the requirements of our Codes and Rules that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that all children and young people have a positive, developmental and enjoyable experience of Gaelic Games and when participating in our activities that they do so, as far as is practicable, in a safe and enjoyable environment.

# RISK ASSESSMENT

In preparing this statement we have completed a risk assessment of the potential for harm to children when they are participating in our games and attending our activities under the following headings: Club and Coaching Practices; Complaints

& Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications and a further heading of General Risk of Harm. To the right is a list of areas of risk identified and the list of procedures and policies for these risks.

# 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.

**RISK IDENTIFIED PROCEDURE/POLICIES IN PLACE QR CODE SHORTCUT**

Risk of harm including assault, ill Code of Behaviour (Underage)¹

treatment or neglect of a child in a Recruitment Policy 1

manner that seriously affects or is Vetting Policy²

likely to seriously affect the child’s Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding

health, development or welfare or Training Policy

welfare or sexual abuse of a child Guidance for Dealing & Reporting Code of Behaviour (Underage)

 Allegations or Concerns of Abuse³

Risk of harm of abuse when hosting an Code of Behaviour (underage) 2 activity and or and away trip Hosting, Away Trips & Transport

 Vetting Policy

Risk of harm of online abuse through Code of Behaviour (Underage)

Social media Association Social Media Policy 3

Bullying of a child Anti-Bullying Statement, Guidance for Dealing & Reporting

 Guidelines & Training Allegations or Concern of Abuse

**The following procedures contained in our risk assessment support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services.**

 • Procedure in respect to the management • Procedure for the reporting of child

 of allegations of abuse against any member, protection or welfare concerns to the

 non-member or staff or volunteer of a child Association, Tusla or Gateway Team

 availing of our services as applicable

• Procedure for the safe recruitment and • Procedure for appointing a relevant person

 selection of workers and volunteers to work i.e. the Children’s Officer (National, Club

 with children and young people and County as appropriate) who is the

 relevant person for the purpose of this

• Procedure for provision of and access statement (see name below)

 to Gaelic Games child safeguarding

 training and information including the

 identification of the occurrence of harm

**MANDATED PERSON**

The Mandated Person, who has a legal **GAA/Rounders** Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichíl *mandatedperson@gaa.ie*

obligation to report harm of children as per **Camogie** Roberta Farrell *mandatedperson@camogie.ie*

legislation and who has been employed for **Handbal**l John Kelly *mandatedperson.handball@gaa.ie*

the purpose of performing the child welfare **LGFA**  Paula Prunty *mandatedperson@lgfa.ie*

and protection functions within each of our

Association is:

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

**IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW**

Club Children’s Officer

The Gaelic Athletic Associations recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. The Associations 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 our Club Executive Committee will be reviewed by **31st of May 2021** or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.