



Guidance for Dealing with & Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse

1. Guidance for Dealing with & Reporting Allegations and Concerns of Abuse

The newly published Guidance for Dealing with & Reporting Allegations and Concerns of Abuse, which applies to all of our Gaelic Games Associations, was launched on Saturday last at the GAA Annual congress and it is a much-welcomed publication. It is an All-Ireland document in that the guidance given applies equally to both the jurisdiction covered by Tusla and by the HSC Gateway teams.

The aim of this publication is to provide us all with a guidance document to deal with allegations or concerns of abuse as made known to us and to advise and direct us on how we may without any undue delay report such matters to the relevant statutory authorities.

The publican is now available online at

<https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/n5hsvzyl3eb5kbrfbyfe.pdf>

and it is a must read and a reference booklet for Designated Liaison Persons (DLP) and for Children's Officers.

The Guidance is packed with very useful information including:

- the role of the DLP, such as the role of the DLP
- our statutory obligations in all jurisdictions
- our Policy & Practice in recording and reporting
- child safeguarding structures in independent, amalgamated or combined teams
- clear direction on how to specifically deal with allegations/concerns, how to impose a debarment and how to report without delay to the relevant statutory authority and to the Association's National DLP
- contact details for both Tusla and Gateway Teams

The Guidance for Dealing with & Reporting Allegations and Concerns of Abuse should be downloaded and placed on every Club and County website for members and parents to read.

2. Adult to Child supervision ratios at Club training, games and at camps

Our Code of Behaviour (Underage) is very clear as to the required supervision ratios of adults to children at our games, at training or at camps. All recommended ratios are minimum ratios that may change if additional adults are required.

Our adult to child ratios in accordance with the guidance issued by Sport Ireland and Sport NI are:

One adult for 8 children under 12 years of age teams and a ratio of 1:10 for children over 12 years of age.

While abiding by such ratios a coach must always be accompanied by at least one other suitably qualified adult at all times.

New role of Supervisor of Children

Following discussions with our Coaching and games personnel and with Cúl Camps personnel it has been agreed to promote a new recognised role of Supervisor (of children). A Supervisor may now be appointed as per the conditions below and may be counted as part of the adult to child ratios at training, games or camps.

The following applies to the new role of Supervisor of Children:

- Clubs may choose to appoint suitable persons to the role of Supervisor, i.e. Supervisor of Children.
- A supervisor is not a coach, but a person appointed to assist in normal supervisory roles which could include access and entry to club grounds, registration, dressing room duties, supervision at away trips etc.
- A Supervisor must be an adult, must be vetted and must be a member of our Association. Supervisors may be included in the calculations for adult to child ratios.
- Should a Club or County wish to appoint a Supervisor of Children to work at Club, Cúl or County Camps they must in addition to the above requirements also complete the Camp Assistants Child Safeguarding Training programme.

Remember a supervisor must be an adult, must be vetted, must be a member of our Association and if working at a camp must also attend the Camp Assistants Child Safeguarding Training programme. A supervisor is not a coach.

3. Special meeting of Child Safeguarding Tutors and County Children's Officers

Saturday 25 April 2020 at 10.30 am in Croke Park has been set aside as part of a special information update for our team of Child Safeguarding Tutors along with the County Children's Officers from all of the Gaelic Games Associations.

Attendance on the day is mandatory as we will discuss some developments that will have impact on the delivery of the three Child Safeguarding Workshops 1,2, and 3 which are currently undergoing changes. The meeting will also receive updates on improvements to the national vetting system, a presentation on a proposed club audit from Sport Ireland and it will also give participants an opportunity to share with us their current experiences and what supports they may require so as to fulfil their respective roles.

More information will follow but please keep this date free in your diary.

4. Designated Liaison Person (Safeguarding 3) Workshop

The DLP workshop is now available for Counties, with 14 new tutors trained to deliver the workshop. As County Children's Officer if you wish to organise a workshop please contact Michelle Harte on michelle.harte@gaa.ie

5. GAA Evetting Form

Please note that in the coming weeks a change will be made to the GAA Evetting Form. This change will involve a dropdown box for the applicant to select the role to which they are applying for vetting for. This will be pre-populated, and the individual will only be able to select from the list provided.

More information to follow at a later stage.