

Update from the National Child Safeguarding Committee for Children's Officers

Dear Children's Officer,

I hope this update finds you and your families well and in good health. I want to take this opportunity to thank you and many others who are making themselves available to assist in ensuring that our safeguarding procedures remain in place.

This update covers the following:

- **Child safeguarding policies and good practices**
- **Club vetting lists**
- **Information on new online virtual Child Safeguarding Training to temporarily replace our traditional face to face workshops remain postponed**

Child safeguarding policies and good practices

In acknowledging our current Club and National Child Safeguarding measures, your assistance as a Children's Officer will be vital in achieving the following:

- ➔ That all Clubs complete the safeguarding compliance form and return to the County Childrens Officer and National Childrens Officer. The date was extended to the 31st May and we still have a number outstanding. These actions are required is to ensure that those appointed to work with children on our behalf have fulfilled the Association's relevant child safeguarding requirements whereby coaches of underage teams must have completed vetting, have attended child safeguarding training and have a coaching qualification.
- ➔ In order to ensure that every Club has appointed a Club Designated Liaison Person (DLP) to assist with any allegations of abuse , (a statutory requirement), that Clubs shall, by 30 June 2020, inform their County Childrens Officer as to who they have chosen to act as their Club DLP, along with the person's contact details. A list of Club DLPs shall subsequently be published on camogie.ie with the provision of online training for those who have yet to attend the Designated Liaison Persons training programme.

Any concerns or allegation of abuse must be acted upon without delay by liaising and reporting such matters to the relevant statutory authority and to our respective Club and National Designated Liaison Persons who shall also assist this process if required. The Camogie National Designated Liaison Person is Roberta Farrell who may be contacted at nationaldlp@camogie.ie

Current child safeguarding services, including training, vetting and daily advice for our members continues to be available by contacting our National Children's Officer at nationalchildrensofficer@camogie.ie or by telephoning 086-7502988.

It should be noted by our Clubs that the absence of games or other related activities should never dilute the core requirements that any person chosen to coach children or work with underage teams must be vetted, must have attended child safeguarding training and must have a coaching qualification. These requirements are enshrined in rule and in legislation.

Club Vetting list

We should be very conscious that these lists are prepared and distributed so as to assist Clubs in ensuring that those chosen by them to work with children are legally compliant with our vetting requirements and laws and the lists may not be used for any other purposes.

As always vetting queries should be forwarded to gardavetting@camogie.ie

Child Safeguarding Training Virtual Workshops

Children's Officers will be aware that a number of Child Safeguarding Workshops were postponed due to the current Covid 19 restrictions.

The National Child Safeguarding Committee is pleased to announce that an initial panel of Tutors have completed their training and are now available to deliver the **Gaelic Games Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop (Safeguarding 1)** as a virtual interactive workshop online. The Safeguarding 1 virtual workshop will be available from 8 June 2020 for Clubs in the 26 Counties. In the absence of face to face workshops, postponed as part of the Covid 19 restrictions, this initiative has already drawn a list of applicants, all of whom will now be invited to attend the virtual workshop training programme which holds the same level of accreditation as previous face to face workshops.

This initiative will greatly facilitate new coaches at underage level who are required to attend Safeguarding Training while our vetting services are available online.

We are requesting that County Children's Officers liaise with units and draw up a priority list of those who may require Child Safeguarding 1 Training. This would include underage coaches who have yet to attend the training, Cúl Camps coaches and those who have recently undertaken Foundation Level coaching training and who are required to complete the safeguarding training before they receive their coaching certificate. Other priority list may include those whose workshop was postponed due to the Covid restrictions, so it is important that discussions take place locally to agree the priority lists.

Our aim is to provide this training on a County by County basis throughout Ireland and we are now commencing the preparation of a similar Safeguarding Training Programme for the 6 Counties.

While our preference has always been for face to face 3-hour workshops delivered by competent and qualified tutors and in groups of less than 20 people we also recognise the need to provide a service and to maintain our child safeguarding responsibilities. These new online and interactive virtual workshops will be delivered in 2 x 1.5 hrs. sessions as our IT and training experience would indicate that shorter sessions online are more conducive to positive learning outcomes.

The roll out of this new training initiative is being coordinated by Michelle Harte in the GAA Children's Office, in consultation with our upskilled Tutors.

- If your County is seeking to host a workshop, whether it be a request from a single Club or from a number of clubs together or from a Cúl Camp or Club Camp initiative all such virtual workshops must be booked through the County Children's Officer who will make contact with Michelle Harte to agree on available time slots and dates for delivering the workshop.
- All queries should be forwarded to safeguardingonline@gaa.ie and copy Roberta.farrell@camogie.ie on the request.
- As per previous arrangements the Club or Clubs or County Committee who host the virtual workshop is responsible for all arrangements with the Tutors including fees, time of sessions etc.

As county children's officers please contact all units within your county to determine how many coaches require training. Once you have the numbers make contact with Michelle at safeguardingonline@gaa.ie to book and copy myself on the email.

In addition to developing a new virtual safeguarding workshop for the 6 Counties the Child Safeguarding Training Committee will redesign the Designated Liaison Persons and the Children's Officer workshops, as online options for our members.

Camogie Covid 19 Communication

I am attaching our 'Return to Safe Activity' document.

As additional communications are issued by the Association, they will be forwarded to you.

Children's Office open for business

Please note that the Camogie Association National Children's Office continues to provide our full range of services and advice remotely including the coordination of training, advice on local child safeguarding matters, vetting coordination, dealing with any cases involving the abuse of children and other daily requests or advisory services.

I am and indeed members of our various national committees, are working away, as we did pre Covid, in ensuring that our safeguarding practices are maintained and available for all.

Should you wish to contact me at any time please do not hesitate and call or email me as per below.

Roberta Farrell Child Safeguarding Officer
Roberta.farrell@camogie.ie Tel: 086-7502988

Keep safe and well

Roberta Farrell

National Childrens Officer

8th June 2020