

Child Safeguarding Training during Covid 19 restrictions

While much focus has been on the restrictions relating to games and training that have arisen due to the Covid 19 pandemic many safeguarding services, including face to face safeguarding workshops, have also been severely impacted upon during this time.

Some modifications have been made to the delivery of Gaelic Games Associations Child Safeguarding Training and these changes, outlined below in a Q & A format, remain in place until 31 December 2020, or until face to face workshops resume. Please make yourself and other child safeguarding personnel aware of these temporary changes and of the clarifications below.

Please also note that a special one-hour Children's Officers Information Webinar will take place on Friday next 26 June 2020 at 7.00 pm and you are invited to participate. The webinar for GAA, LGFA and Camogie County Children's Officers will discuss training services, our role in the return to play protocols, vetting and will address any additional questions submitted by yourselves in advance.

Safeguarding Training

Most people working with children in our Associations undertake the Child Safeguarding 1 Programme (Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop) and then attend the online refresher after 3 years or re-attend the face to face workshop, if they are still working at underage level. As we are aware all face to face workshops are now indefinitely postponed and the Child Safeguarding 1 workshop has been replaced by an virtual and interactive workshop.

However, due to the current exceptional circumstances this 3-year recognition period for safeguarding training has now been extended to 5 years until 31 December 2020. For example, if a person attended a Child Safeguarding 1 workshop anytime in 2015, they **may** now complete the Online Safeguarding Refresher programme up to the end of this year.

The new Child Safeguarding 1 virtual workshop is now up and running and we also intend launching a-virtual Children's Officer programme and a virtual Designated Liaison Person's programme in the next few weeks. The priority however in the immediate future is delivering the Safeguarding 1 virtual workshop for Club and Camp personnel on a 32 County basis, which should be coordinated at local level by Club and County Children's Officers.

What is the Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding 1 virtual workshop?

- The new Safeguarding 1 virtual workshop is a live interactive programme, delivered by a Tutor via a virtual classroom platform and replaces the face to face workshops until the end of the year or until the face to face workshops return. Safeguarding 1 training fulfils one of the requirements that an underage coach or a person working with children must undertake, the other two being vetting and a coaching qualification.
- The virtual workshop consists of two sessions of 1.5 hrs each and holds the same recognition as the face to face workshops that we previously delivered. It is not a video and it is not a one-way webinar. It is an interactive live virtual workshop delivered by a trained Tutor to a maximum of 20 participants.
- Participants will receive instructions on how to create a GAA Elearning Account, which will permit them access to join the Virtual Safeguarding 1 Workshop. When both consecutive sessions are completed a certificate of attendance is issued to the participant.

- Preference will be given to coaches who are working at Camps for children in the initial rolling out of the virtual workshops with other Club personnel to follow.

Can you book a place on the new Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding 1 virtual workshop?

Clubs are asked to draw up a list of those who require Child Safeguarding 1 training and particularly new coaches. The Club Children's Officer should then liaise with the County Children's Officer who is coordinating safeguarding training within the County. The County Children's Officer will contact Michelle Harte to agree on available time slots and dates for delivering the workshop. All queries should be forwarded to safeguardingonline@gaa.ie.

County Children's Officers are also asked to liaise with their County Games Manager or other games personnel 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.

Remember, new coaches who are working on Cúl/Club Camps will be given priority when delivering the new Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding 1 virtual workshop but as we increase the number of Tutors we hope to satisfy the obvious demand that is emerging from other quarters.

Do we still have the Gaelic Games Child online Safeguarding Refresher programme, and if so, who should attend this?

- The online Safeguarding Refresher programme is always available as an online programme. Applicants click in and complete the programme on their own at any time and once completed it has a 3-year recognition period.
- The online Safeguarding Refresher is targeted at:
 - ✓ Any person who completed the Gaelic Games Safeguarding 1 face to face workshop in the last 5 years i.e. since 2015. They may now complete the online Safeguarding Refresher to enable them to continue in their role for the next 3 years or may defer the training until the new year. If a person can defer until the new year, we ask that they consider this.
 - ✓ Any person who attended an LSP or other Sports NGB's Safeguarding 1 workshops can 'top up' their training by availing of our Child Safeguarding Refresher and this fulfils their child safeguarding training requirements so that they may work with children in our Gaelic Games Associations.
 - ✓ Any person who attends the new Sport Ireland or Sport Northern Ireland Safeguarding 1 virtual workshop online (soon to be launched) may also undertake the Gaelic Games online Safeguarding Refresher to fulfil their child safeguarding training requirements.
 - ✓ A reminder that a person receives a certificate of attendance when they complete the online Safeguarding Refresher programme and a record is kept by the National Children's Office who can export a list of same for Clubs when required.
 - ✓ The link to the Gaelic Games Child online Safeguarding Refresher programme is <https://learning.gaa.ie/safeguarding>

Is the Child Safeguarding Refresher the same as the Safeguarding 1 online virtual workshop?

No, they are not the same programme. The Safeguarding 1 virtual workshop is the recognised Safeguarding 1 programme that coaches and others must attend in the first instance to enable them

work with children. The Refresher is a programme that a person normally undertakes after the 3-year period of recognition has expired (now extended to 5 years until end of 2020).

When will we be able to attend Children's Officer training and the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) training through an online workshop?

Following the commencement of the Safeguarding 1 programme we are now amending both the Children's Officer training programme (Safeguarding 2) and the Designated Liaison Person's Programme (Safeguarding 3) and we hope to have these available online in the next few weeks. The online availability of these programmes will continue at least until face to face workshops return.

May I remind you again that we are hosting a special one-hour Children's Officers Information Webinar on Friday 26 June 2020 at 7.00 pm. If you have any questions for discussion during the webinar please forward them to nationalchildrensoffice@gaa.ie The link to the webinar will follow early next week.

Children's Office open for business

Please note that the Camogie 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.

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

Roberta Farrell National Childrens Officer

nationalchildrensoffice@camogie.ie Tel: 086-7502988