

Child Safeguarding Statement

Galway Football Association provides various sporting activities and opportunities for young people through participation in Leagues and regional/provincial events.

Galway Football Association is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Galway Football Association Safeguarding Policies our staff, both volunteers and employed, working with our young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop.

This Galway Football Association written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents require to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified are contained in the following categories: League and Coaching Practices; Complaints & Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications; and General Risk of Harm.

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 01st March 2018.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice). In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

Galway Football Association has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities

The Childrens Officer for Galway Football Association is Pat McCann and the Designated Liaison Person is Tom Trill (Chairman).

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our Association is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 01st June 2020.

Signed:  Date: 01st Oct 2019

(On behalf of the Galway Football Association)

Risk Assessment Document for Galway Football League.

This risk assessment considers the potential for harm to come to children whilst they are in **Galway Football League** care. This risk assessment precedes the Child Safeguarding Statement (Section 11 (1b) Children First Act 2015) which is developed following this risk assessment process. In accordance with the requirements of Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015 the risk is of abuse and not general health and safety risk (covered under a separate H&S policy and risk assessment).

Section 11 (1) of the Children First Act 2015 states that where a person proposes to operate as a provider of a relevant service, he or she shall, within 3 months from the date on which he or she commences as such a provider —

- (a) Undertake an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of the service (in this section referred to as a “risk”).

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club/Region/National	Further action required ...
CLUB & COACHING PRACTICES				
Lack of coaching qualification	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coach education policy ▪ Recruitment policy 	League Committee	<i>Proof of qualification to be confirmed</i>
Supervision issues	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supervision policy ▪ Coach education policy 	League Committee	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Unauthorised photography & recording activities	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Photography and Use of Images policy 	League Committee	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Behavioural Issues	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Conduct ▪ Safeguarding Level 1 (min) ▪ Complaints & Disciplinary policy 	League Committee	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Lack of gender balance amongst coaches	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coach education policy ▪ Supervision policy 	League Committee	<i>Ongoing review</i>

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club/Region/National	Further action required ...
No guidance for travelling and away trips	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel/Away trip policy Child Safeguarding Training 	League Committee	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy (i.e. mobile, photography, transport)	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding policy Complaints & disciplinary policy 	League Committee	<i>Ongoing review</i>
COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINE				
Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy Communications procedure 	League Committee	<i>Immediate action needed Greater communication required</i>
Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent Reason: Covered above	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy Communications procedure 	League Committee	<i>Review the communication/responsibilities of the procedure/policy as required</i>
Complaints not being dealt with seriously	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints & Disciplinary procedure/policy 	League Committee	<i>Ongoing review</i>
REPORTING PROCEDURES				
Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy Coach education policy Code of Conduct /Behaviour 	NGB MP DLP	<i>Make policies and procedures available Include in Safeguarding Training (L1) Include in Coach Education Training</i>
No Mandated Person appointed	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy 	NGB	<i>Publicise identity of Mandated Person Train Mandated Person in their role</i>
No DLP Appointed	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy 	NGB League Committee	<i>Train all DLPs Publicise identity of DLPs</i>
Concerns of abuse or harm not reported	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting procedures/policy 	MP DLP	<i>Include in Safeguarding Training (L1)</i>

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club/Region/National	Further action required ...
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Training – Level 1 		<i>Publicise names of CCOs, DLPs, MP(s)</i> <i>Publicise internal and external reporting procedures</i>
Not clear who YP should talk to or report to	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post the names of CCOs, DLPs and MP 	CCO DLP	<i>Communicate in Club</i> <i>Include in Safeguarding Training (L1)</i>
FACILITIES				
Unauthorised access to designated children’s play & practice areas and to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision policy Coach education 	NGB League Committee	<i>Clarify responsibilities before session starts</i>
Unauthorised exit from children’s areas	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervision policy Coach education 	League Committee	<i>Clarify responsibilities before session starts</i>
Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography policy and use of devices in private zones 	League Committee	<i>Enforce policy in private changing and wet areas</i>
Missing or found child on site	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing or found child policy 	League Committee	<i>Refer to policy and inform Gardai</i>
Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc.	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding policy 	League Committee	<i>Plan with facilities management to create a suitable child centred environment in shared facilities</i>
RECRUITMENT				
Recruitment of inappropriate people	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment policy 	NGB League Committee CCO Appropriate personnel	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Lack of clarity on roles	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment policy 	League Committee	<i>Check job description</i> <i>Put supervision in place</i>

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club/Region/National	Further action required ...
Unqualified or untrained people in role	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment policy 	League Committee	<i>Check qualification Ongoing review</i>
COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA				
Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement Training policy 	National League Committee DLP CCO	<i>Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement</i>
No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members or visitors	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Safeguarding Statement – display Code of Behaviour - distribute 	League Committee DLP Children's Officer	<i>Communicate Child Safeguarding Statement Distribute Code or Sections as appropriate</i>
Unauthorised photography & recording of activities	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography and Use of Images policy 	League Committee	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18's	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications policy Code of conduct 	League Committee	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Inappropriate use of social media and communications with under 18's	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications policy Code of conduct. 	League Committee	<i>Ongoing review</i>
GENERAL RISK OF HARM				
Harm not being recognised	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding policy Child Safeguarding Training 	League Committee	<i>Ongoing review</i>
Harm caused by - child to child	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding policy 	League Committee	<i>Ongoing review</i>

Potential risk of harm to children	Likelihood of harm happening L-M-H	Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document	Responsibility Club/Region/National	Further action required ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coach to child - volunteer to child - member to child - visitor to child 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Safeguarding Training 		
General behavioural issues	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Conduct 	League Committee	<i>Take disciplinary action where necessary Sign code of conduct</i>

Explanation of terms used:

- **Potential risk of harm to children** – these are identified risks of harm to children whilst accessing activities in Galway Football League.
- **Likelihood of harm happening** – the likelihood of the risk occurring in Galway Football League measured by us as Low/Medium or High.
- **Required Policy, Guidance and Procedure document** – indication of the policy required to alleviate the risk.
- **Responsibility** – provider should indicate where the responsibility for alleviating the risk lies.
- **Further action...** - indicates further action that might be necessary to alleviate any risk ongoing.

This Risk Assessment document has been discussed and completed by Galway Football League on 01 /Oct /2019

Signed: 

Name: Thomas Trill

Role: Galway League Chairman (Designated Liaison Person)

Date: 01 Oct 2019

Signed: 

Name: Pat McCann

Role: Galway FA Children's Officer

Date: 01 Oct 2019