



# **Child Welfare Information Seminar**

**Croke Park**

**3 November 2018**

**Child Safeguarding Tutors' Forum**

*Presented by Dermot Howlin (Safeguarding Training Committee), Louise Monaghan and Michelle Harte*

# Child Protection Safeguarding 1 Workshop

**Child Protection in Sport Awareness Tutors (100) registered by GAA with Sport Ireland**

- **Mandatory**
- **Can be facilitated at club level**
- **Cross organisational emphasis to be recommended**
- **Tutor support programme in place for those that deliver**
- **Delays in sending back workshop registration to Croke Park**
- **Tutors must inform County Children's Officer if they are running a workshop**

Child Protection in  
Sport Awareness Workshop  
Safeguarding 1

# Club Children's Officer Safeguarding 2



**Club Childrens Officer Tutors registered by GAA with Sport Ireland (20)**

- **Must have completed Safeguarding 1 Awareness Workshop first**
- **Accessed through County Board**
- **Cross organisational emphasis to be recommended**
- **Workshop is usually ran from January – May**

Club Children's Officer  
Workshop

- **Additional Tutor Training for Safeguarding 2 will take place in November 2018.**

# Designated Liaison Person Safeguarding 3

- Must have completed Safeguarding 1 Awareness Workshop first
  - Piloted three in 2018
  - Targeted at DLPs at Club and County level
  - Accessed through County Board
  - Suitable for all Gaelic Games Associations
  - Cross organisational emphasis to be recommended
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- **Tutor Training for Safeguarding 3 will take place in February/March 2019.**

# Tutor Heads of Agreement

- To be signed annually by tutors
- Agreement is between the tutor and the Child Safeguarding Committee
- Key points:
  - Tutors must liaise with their County Children's Officers on the progress of delivering workshops on a County basis.
  - Tutors should consult with Sport Ireland if requested by other sports bodies to deliver the Sport Ireland Safeguarding 1 workshop.
  - All Tutors must deliver a minimum of two workshops each year.
  - Tutors are obliged to participate in the National Child Safeguarding Tutor Development Programme as deemed appropriate or on request
  - All participants shall receive a Gaelic Games Safeguarding certificate of attendance on completion of their workshop
  - Attendance list for each workshop delivered (as per agreed form) to be forwarded to their County Children's Officer, Sport Ireland and to the GAA National Children's Office, within seven days of the workshop taking place

# Recap on Legislation

- Criminal Justice - Withholding of Information on Offences Against Children & Vulnerable Persons Act 2012
- Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017
- Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act, 1998
- Children First Act 2015
- National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016

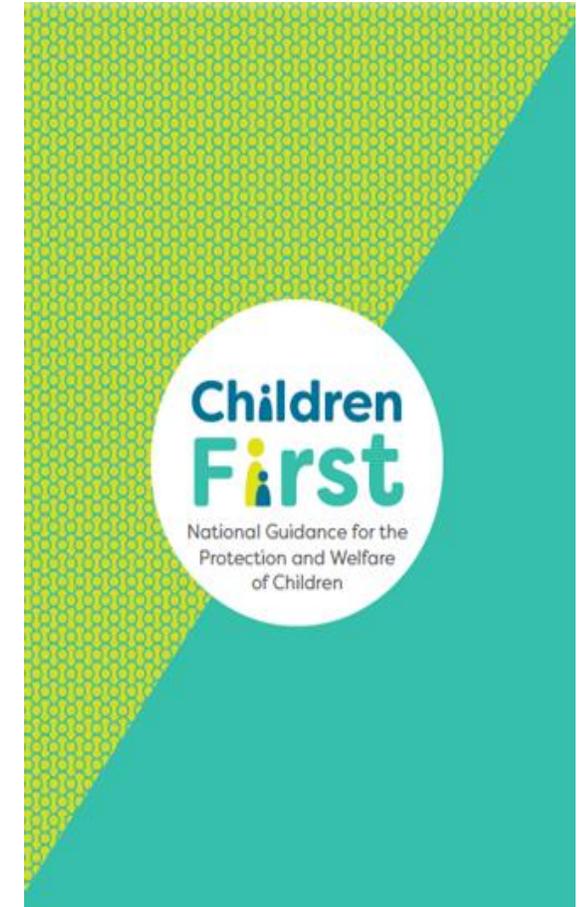
# Children First



Children First Act 2015



The Guidance is a statutory support in promoting the Act for use by the general public, mandated persons and other volunteers and staff, whose work and services brings them into contact with children



# Children First Guidance

It emphasises the importance of keeping children **safe from harm** while in care of the Association.

- It sets out definitions of abuse and signs for its recognition.
- It explains how reports or concerns should be made by everyone.

# Children First Guidance

## For the GAA, LGFA and Camogie we:

- Conduct a Risk Assessment and display a Child Safeguarding Statement at Club, County and National level.
- Have clear reporting procedures in place if allegations/reports/concerns of abuse are received.
- Appoint a Mandated Person at National level.
- Appoint a Designated Liaison Person at Club, County and Provincial level.
- Deliver relevant child safeguarding training
- Implement clearly defined methods of recruitment
- Continue to raise awareness on children's safety and welfare

# The Mandated Person in your Association



- ❑ All of our Associations must legally appoint a Mandated Person. Each Association has one Mandated Person only who also acts as the National DLP.
- ❑ County Boards and Clubs do not have appointed Mandated Persons.
- ❑ Mandated Person is required to report child protection concerns, over a defined threshold, to Tusla and to assist Tusla, if requested, in assessing concerns which have been the subject of a mandated report.
- ❑ DLPs shall, in addition to ensuring that child protection concerns are referred to statutory authorities shall, forward a copy of any such reports to their Association's Mandated Person.
- ❑ Volunteers are not identified as mandated reporters but will continue to report as per Children First Guidance 2017.
- ❑ **Our Mandated Persons may be contacted at:**

**GAA – mandatedperson@gaa.ie (and for Rounders)**

**Camogie – mandatedperson@camogie.ie**

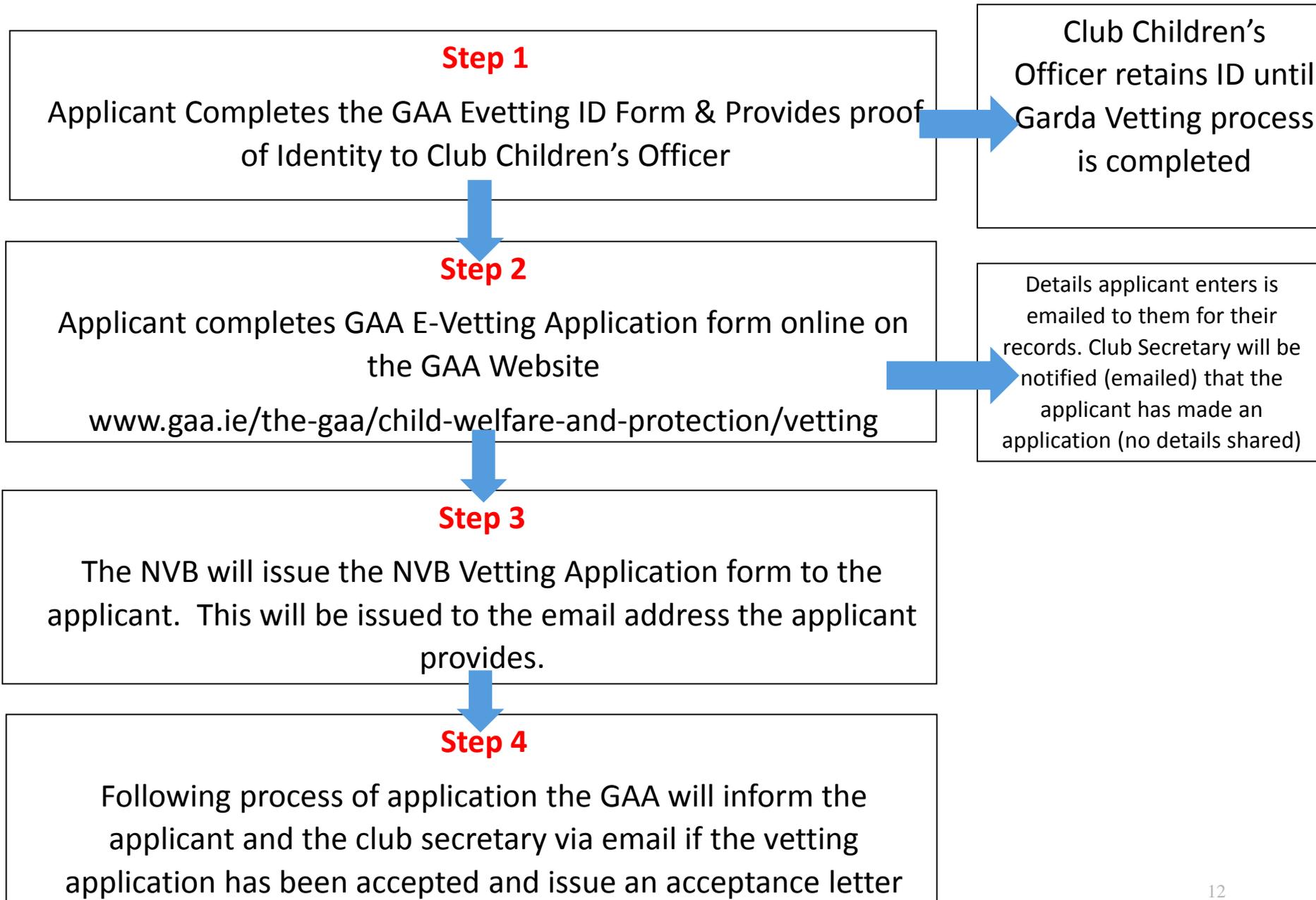
**Handball – mandatedperson.handball@gaa.ie**

**LGFA – mandatedperson@lgfa.ie**

# Vetting and Police Background Checks

- Current legislation stipulates that it is a criminal offence on the island of Ireland for a person acting on behalf of the Gaelic Games Associations to commence working with children and vulnerable persons, without that person first obtaining a vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau or a criminal record check from AccessNI, in respect of the role for which they have applied
- The joint Code of Behaviour (Underage) also stipulates that any person working with children or vulnerable adults must be vetted
- The Club Children's Officer must establish who, due to their roles, is required to be vetted and should do so on an annual basis

# National Vetting Bureau (Garda Síochána)



# Vetting Numbers

Vetting	GAA	Camogie	LGFA
2018	21,000	4,080	4,227
Total since commencement	128,500	16,080	15,278
Access NI	2018	Total	
	5,512	31,172	

# FAQs