

**To: Gach Runaí Chontae, County Children's Officers and Club Children's Officers**

**Re:**

- 1. New coaches Temporary Safeguarding 1 Programme**
- 2. Online Coaching of Children Guidance**
- 3. Vetting via Garda National Vetting Bureau**

A chara,

### **1. New coaches Temporary Safeguarding 1 Programme**

With no on-field activity taking place over the last few months many Clubs and County Boards have concentrated on recruiting new or potential coaches to work with underage teams or in related roles of responsibility. The coach education provided for NEW or potential coaches offers many Clubs additional numbers from which to choose new coaches in 2021.

These additional coaching programmes have naturally led to a surge in applications to attend the Safeguarding 1 Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshop, a requirement for all underage coaches. The current temporary ban on face-to-face training has put pressure on our delivery of virtual safeguarding training with every available online slot utilised on a daily basis. We are currently delivering virtual Safeguarding Training Workshops, via our agreed training platform, 7 days a week and we are extremely grateful to our Safeguarding Tutors who have rallied to the call and made themselves available on each and every day as called upon.

While new and potential coaches are also obliged to submit and complete their vetting applications and have achieved, as a minimum, a Foundation/Fundamentals coaching qualification, we are pleased to introduce special arrangements that will assist them in achieving their safeguarding requirements while they await attendance at a virtual or face-to-face safeguarding training workshops.

As a temporary measure, **NEW or POTENTIAL** coaches of underage teams who have completed or are completing their Foundation/Fundamentals coaching qualification may avail of a short term arrangement and fulfil their initial safeguarding training requirements by completing the Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher Programme. For **NEW or POTENTIAL** coaches of underage teams this training will be known as the Temporary Safeguarding 1 Programme.

This safeguarding training recognition will suffice for them to commence in a coaching or related role of responsibility, in addition to the afore mentioned requirements. This temporary agreement remains in place until such time as the new coach has attended their virtual or face-to-face safeguarding workshop. While the SG1 Online refresher programme is a safeguarding recognised training programme in itself the agreement being proposed is temporary and shall expire on 31 December 2021, unless renewed by the NCSC. On completion of the Temporary Safeguarding 1 Programme, the underage coach shall present their Safeguarding 1 Refresher certificate to their Club Children's Officer.

All New or Potential coaches who have applied to attend a virtual Safeguarding 1 workshop via their club are (or have been) allocated a workshop date. I cannot emphasise how important it is to fulfil this arrangement once they are informed of their workshop date. Failure to attend will result in their temporary safeguarding training recognition expiring on 31 December 2021 and unless they have

attended a virtual or face-to-face safeguarding workshop by that date they will have to withdraw from their coaching roles.

It should be noted that when a safeguarding training place is allocated to your club for **NEW** or **POTENTIAL** coaches, and it is not taken up, that they are depriving some other new coach of a place on a virtual workshop – something we are anxious to avoid while we are all under such pressure with training places.

The above arrangements apply to NEW or POTENTIAL underage coaches, it expires no later than 31 December 2021 and does not apply to current coaches or those who work in coaching or other roles of responsibility at Cúl Camps or Club Camps later this year.

Children's Officers are requested to bring this temporary arrangement to the attention of new or potential coaches who have yet to attend their safeguarding training. The Temporary Safeguarding 1 Programme may be accessed and completed at <https://learning.gaa.ie/tempsafeguarding1>

## **2. Online Coaching of Children Guidance**

A revised Guidance for Online Coaching of Children has been agreed following consultation with statutory authorities, parents, coaches and the Gaelic Games Associations. The Guidance will assist all clubs who wish to deliver online coaching sessions whether it is for nursery level or up to Minor level or as part of a skills challenge competition or a charity event.

Please see link for Guidance for Online Coaching of Children

<https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/noga2qz5r24reojllc3m.pdf>

## **3. Vetting via Garda National Vetting Bureau**

As from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2021, the new 3-year vetting recognition will apply for all vetting carried out via the Garda National Vetting Bureau on our behalf for those who work with children. The vetting acceptance letter currently issued to those deemed suitable to work with children has yet to be changed to reflect the new 3-year vetting recognition. This process involves the closure of the vetting site for several days to facilitate this change. We await confirmation as to when this change can be made on the system or if it will be made when the new vetting system is part of Foireann. Our Vetting policy governs the term of recognition which is 3 years.