

Report for St. Sylvester's GAA AGM 29th November 2017

Garda Vetting:

While Garda Vetting has been a long established principle within the Gaa, it is now mandatory since the implementation of legislation last year; The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 -2016 .

It placed a statutory duty on the GAA to ensure that all persons who work on our behalf and undertake 'relevant work' with children and vulnerable persons are vetted prior to taking up that role. All applications for Garda Vetting for all codes are now on line , under E - Vetting. Further, all applicants are obliged to renew every 5 years.

New completed applications for Garda Vetting - club coaches

April 2017 - 74 approx (this includes juvenile boys, juvenile girls, nursery and referees U-18)

It is anticipated that this number is set to increase as the numbers expand in the underage streams.

New email address for the child welfare officer within the club. New address set up to manage the storage of information in accordance with Data Protection legislation, - co@stsylvesters.ie

GAA Audit.

In July the club participated in the first National Child Welfare Audit . Its objective was to capture clubs response and adherence to child welfare and protection policies ,with particular emphasis on safeguarding responsibilities at club level. The full results has of yet not been published.

However the audit emphasised the clubs initial responsibilities with regards the following:

3 mandatory requirements before coaches commence their work with children :

Attendance and the Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding workshop

Be vetted through the National Garda Vetting system.

Posses a minimum coaching qualification .

A recent and widely reported court case highlighted the Gaa's code and practices with regards to their child welfare, protection and safeguarding policies. This was for discussion at a recent conference for county welfare officers that was scheduled on 11th November last.

For discussion - To agree child safeguarding priorities for 2018-2021.

The re-vamped and re titled Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport .
Changes to dealing with breaches of the Code.

Future plans

- * Ensure that all club coaches are compliant with regards to the garda vetting process.
- * To schedule a Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding workshop for new coaches.
- * To plan 'give respect, get respect' session with club juvenile coaches. This is a Gas initiative that promotes positive behaviour and respect from, and for all participants on and off the field. Proposal, that this is rolled out for all streams at underage for both juvenile sections.

Miriam Slattery
Child Welfare Officer