



SUNCROFT GFC



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Child Safeguarding And Protection Policy



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1. POLICY STATEMENT

Children are the most important members in our club.

Suncroft Gaelic Football Club (GFC) aim to promote the participation of children in our club by creating a culture of safety and fun.

“Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence. They must be kept safe from harm and they must be given proper care by those looking after them” (Article 19: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)

All children’s sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. Ireland has adopted and is committed to the European Code of Sport Ethics which defines fair play as:

“Much more than playing within the rules. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing within the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just a way of behaving. It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of cheating, gamesmanship, doping, violence (both physical and verbal), exploitation, unequal opportunities, excessive commercialism and corruption.”

(European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe, 1993)

The Children’s Act (2001) and The Children’s First Act (2015) are based on a clear and consistent set of principles designed with the common aim of promoting the welfare and safeguarding of children.

Children have the right to be safe. All coaches should ensure that this fundamental principle takes precedent over all other considerations.

All club members, through their actions reflect the principles and guidelines contained in the ‘Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Children’s Sport in Ireland.’ We promote the aims and ideals of our Association, adhere to its policy and nurture our Gaelic culture.



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2. STANDARDS SET BY SUNCROFT GFC WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH ENSURING THE FOLLOWING:

- Awareness of the issues which lead to children being harmed
- Safe recruiting procedures for coaches/volunteers, careful selection
- Provision of Irish Sports Council approved Child Protection awareness workshops for coaches and administrators
- Application of codes of behaviour for coaches/volunteers
- Application of codes of behaviour for children/young people
- Application of codes of behaviour for parents
- Application of good and safe working/playing practices
- Establishment of procedures for dealing with child protection issues /recording of complaints/accidents, report books detailing facts, witnesses, circumstances etc.
- Procedures relating specifically to bullying, away trips and photography
- Identification and maintenance of parental responsibility
- Availability of information – each parent should receive a copy or have access to the Child Protection Policy
- Regular review and monitoring of Child Protection procedures by the management committee
- All children are treated equally; the club will promote anti-discriminatory practices.

The policy applies to all those involved in Suncroft GFC as coaches, administrators, officials, volunteers, parents/guardians and children.

3. DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON - DLP (with respect to Child Protection)

The 'contact person' or Designated Liaison Person within Suncroft GFC is:

Name: Louise McGuirk
Address: Cutbush, the Curragh, Co. Kildare
Telephone number: 087 056 2411

The name of designated person shall be made known to all in the club. He/she is the person to whom child protection concerns will be addressed. If the concern is about the designated person, please report to the Kildare GAA County Chairperson.

The club has procedures in place for dealing with concerns or allegation of abuse or neglect either within the club or externally but the first point of contact for the child, parent/guardian or coach is the designated person. However, any individual has the right to contact Social Services or An Gardaí directly if they have concern about a child's welfare.



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4. CLUB CHILDREN'S OFFICER

The Children's Officer (CO) in Suncroft GFC is:

Name: Flan Hassett
Address: Carna Lodge, Suncroft, Co. Kildare
Telephone number: 087 978 6660

The Children's Officer is the link between youth mentors, members and management. It is essential that this communication line is clear and working. The Children's Officer may be assisted by others whose details, along with the club chairperson's, are prominently displayed in e.g. club changing rooms, offices, and pavilion. The Children's Officer's function is to engender a child-centred club ethos, promote ethics and good practice, influence club policy and report to the management committee and designated person.

5. GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ACCIDENTS / INCIDENTS / ABUSE

GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ACCIDENTS

In the event of an accident the following procedure will be followed:

- Contact parents/guardians in the event of all accidents.
- Fill in 2 copies of the Accident Form for ALL accidents. One copy for the parent/guardian and the other for the club secretary.

For more serious accidents:

- Contact emergency services/G.P. if necessary
- Record detailed facts surrounding accident, witnesses etc.
- Complete Accident Form as above
- All serious accidents should be reported immediately to the club secretary who will inform the relevant insurance body, Kildare GAA County Secretary and Croke Park as necessary.

GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ALLEGATIONS/INCIDENTS OF ABUSE

- Record and report all incidents reported or observed and forward to the Designated Liaison Person.
- Ensure confidentiality – a 'need to know basis'.
- The Designated Liaison Person is responsible for report security.
- Adhere to An Cumann Lúthchleas Gael's *Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse*



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6. CODES OF CONDUCT & BEST PRACTICE

Suncroft GFC's Code of Conduct & Best Practice Policy is available on the club's website www.suncroftgfc.com on the information page.

This Code Of Conduct & Best Practice will ensure Suncroft GFC's:

- Promotion of a healthy lifestyle by practice and example.
- Proper supervision of children within the club with adequate numerical and gender coach: child ratio.
- Use of safe equipment and facilities.
- Public Liability Insurance covering all members of the club.
- Only children of similar age will train/play together.
- First aid assistance and first aid equipment is available in case of accident.
- All accidents will be reported to parents/guardians.
- A safe environment for members.
- On-going training and information for Leaders.
- Implementation of policy and procedures in line with guidance from the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport*.
- Facilitation of open discussion on member protection issues.
- Support to members who report allegations of abuse.
- Suspected abuse information is treated confidentially.
- Appropriate action is taken if members breach standards of reasonable behaviour.
- The Designated Officer has knowledge of child protection procedures and responsibility in reporting concerns.
- The implementation of good and safe working practice is developed to the mutual benefit of the member, local area and community.

References:

- www.gaa.ie
- Our Games Our Code - Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport.
- Code of Behaviour Underage

Should any conflict arise between this policy and the policy of any competent authority, i.e. GAA, LGFA, Tusla, the policy of the competent authority takes precedence.