

Job Description for Child Protection Officer

The Child Protection Officer should be child centred in focus and should have as his/her primary aim the establishment of a child centred ethos within the club. He/she is the link between the children and the adults in the club. He/she also takes responsibility for monitoring and reporting to the Club Management Committee on how club policy etc. impacts on children and their Sports Leaders.

The Child Protection Officer should have the following functions:

- To develop and maintain a youth-centred ethos within the club by promoting awareness of the “Code of Best Practice for Youth Sport”, particularly among the children and their parents/guardians. This could be achieved by the production of information leaflets, the establishment of a children’s specific notice board’s and by regular information meetings for the children and their parents/guardians.
- To influence policy and practice within the club in order to prioritise children’s needs.
- To encourage the involvement of parents/guardians in organising activities and to co-operate with parents in ensuring that every young person enjoys his/her involvement.
- To establish a link between the Underage and Adult sections of the Club.
- To establish good links with local schools involved in the promotion of Gaelic games.
- To ensure that the rules regarding eligibility for competitions are adhered to.
- To ensure that PLAYERS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS, COACHES, MENTORS, OFFICIALS & SPECTATORS understand, sign up to and apply their respective code of conduct.
- To ensure that all volunteers who work with children have received Child Protection training.
- To ensure that all coaches who work with children are qualified to the relevant standard in Gaelic games.
- Take responsibility for ensuring training is kept up to date and keep abreast of any developments within the association.
- To ensure that age-appropriate equipment is available to the Underage section within the club, for example appropriate size footballs for different age groups, portable goals etc.

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- To ensure that this child-centred ethos is reflected in coaching and games, for example, the promotion of the “Go Games” for children’s team matches as opposed to full sided games “competitive” games.
- To ensure that there is a proper competition structure for all the age groups at underage level.
- To ensure that the focus should be on children’s long-term development, as opposed to a win at all costs mentality.
- To encourage that there is a proper coach/player ratio at all underage training sessions and games. Aiming for a minimum of 4 mentors per team and a ratio of at least 1:10 if possible.
- To liase with the Underage Coaching Co-ordinator to ensure that the aforementioned child-centred ethos is being adhered to through coaching and games development.