



ST PAUL'S GAC

Vulnerable Adults Policy

17th February 2018



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Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

1. **St Paul's GAC** acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all vulnerable adults involved in the club from harm.
2. **St Paul's GAC** confirms that it adheres to the GAA Safeguarding Policy and its procedures, practices and guidelines and endorses and adopts the Policy Statement contained in that document.
3. A Vulnerable Adult is a person who is 18 years of age or over and unable to care independently for themselves. This may be because they have a physical disability, experiencing mental health issues including dementia, have learning disabilities or due illness, injury or have become severely frail, through old age. All of which could be either a permanent or temporary state as defined in the Safeguarding Vulnerable groups order 2007.
4. The Key Principles of the **St Paul's GAC** Safeguarding Vulnerable People Policy are that:
 - The welfare of the vulnerable adult is, and must always be, paramount to any other considerations;
 - All participants regardless of age, gender, ability or disability, race, faith, culture, size, shape, language or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse or harm;
 - All allegations or suspicions of abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately;
 - Working in partnership with other organisations, statutory agencies, parents, careers, is essential for the welfare of vulnerable adults; and
 - Vulnerable Adults have a right to expect support, and personal and social development delivered by an appropriately recruited, vetted and managed person in relation to their participation in sport, whether they are playing, volunteering or officiating in the community areas of the sport.
5. **St Paul's GAC** recognises that all vulnerable adults have the right to participate in sport in a safe, positive and enjoyable environment whilst at the same time being protected from abuse, neglect, harm and poor practice. **St Paul's GAC** recognises that this is the responsibility of everyone involved, in whatever capacity, at the club.
6. **St Paul's GAC** will implement and comply with the **St Paul's GAC** Code of Conduct and the GAA Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Spectators and Officials as appropriate.
7. The Club Safeguarding Officer is: John Monaghan; telephone 077 3612 0858; e-mail jmonaghan2609@gmail.com.

If you witness or are aware of an incident where the welfare of a vulnerable adult has been put at risk you must in the first instance inform the Club Safeguarding Officer. They will then inform the **St Paul's GAC** Club Chairman. If an incident involves the Club Safeguarding Officer you should inform Paddy Hunt Chairman or in his absence Paul Collins Secretary.



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8. All members of **St Paul's GAC** who have a regular supervisory contact with vulnerable adults or a management responsibility for those working with vulnerable adults must undertake an Access NI check.
9. **St Paul's GAC** will ensure that all its members, whether they are coaches, parents, players or officials will comply with the GAA Code of Best Practice in youth sport guidance. In summary, the following are NOT acceptable and will be treated seriously by the club and may result in disciplinary action being taken by the club:
 - Working alone with a child, children, vulnerable adult, or adults;
 - Consuming alcohol whilst responsible for vulnerable adults;
 - Humiliating vulnerable adults;
 - Inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with a vulnerable adult;
 - Participating in, or allowing, contact or physical games with vulnerable adults;
 - Making sexually explicit comments or sharing sexually explicit material with vulnerable adults.
10. **St Paul's GAC** manages the changing facilities and arranges for them to be supervised by two adults of the appropriate gender for the players using the facilities. **St Paul's GAC** ensures that all its coaches, parents, officials and spectators are aware that adults must not change at the same time, using the same facilities as children or vulnerable adults.
11. **St Paul's GAC** will ensure that its coaches and team managers will receive the support and training considered appropriate to their position and role.
12. Any events held on **St Paul's GAC** premises must comply with this Policy and if appropriate a Safeguarding Plan should be discussed and circulated to those affected. Any tours, overseas or domestic activities, undertaken by **St Paul's GAC** must comply with the relevant Regulations and Guidance relating to tours and trips.

Club Cathaoirleach:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Club Rúnaí:

Signed: *P Collins*

Date: 17th February 2018