



# CREATING A SAFE CLUB

25th April 2024

GAA National Health & Safety Committee

# Safe Club Objectives

## □ Objectives:

1. Identifying and managing risk in your club grounds and facilities
2. Understanding the value of documentation
3. Managing third-party contractors and events
4. Event Management & Control
5. Importance of Accident/Incident reporting



# Challenges

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What are the challenges facing clubs when attempting to manage health and safety?

# H&S - Challenges

- ❑ Enforcement
- ❑ Non-member user-management
- ❑ Inadequate or no site-specific Safety Statement or Risk Assessments
- ❑ Management of facilities
- ❑ Lack of necessary documentation
- ❑ Supervision i.e. young people. Astro turf, hall, etc.
- ❑ Lack of resources available to address concerns
- ❑ Inadequate signage



# H&S - Challenges

- Mindset – “Keepers of the nightmare” – “*We have always done it this way!*”
- Too many competing and more important pressures on officers and officials
- Lack of understanding around duties and responsibilities
- Jargon and terms used in H&S are a turnoff!
- H&S is perceived to be of little relevance to roles
- Not my concern!!



# H&S - Challenges

- “Isn’t that why we pay insurance!!”
- Focus and energy on players and their needs
- H&S is not important for GAA so why bother!!
- Inadequate in-service or support provided to clubs
- H&S practice prevents quick and efficient working – stops things happening within the club
- Fear of litigation!!



# 1. The Importance of Creating a Safe Club



- Duty of Care
- Legal Requirements
- Insurance Implications

## The Importance of Creating a Safe Club

# Duty of Care

1. The **Moral Responsibility** common to all organisations to maintain a safe environment for members and visitors

2. Consistent with the **GAA Values** of:

**Respect** – pride in the upkeep of our facilities and consideration for the health and safety of all those who enter our grounds

**Inclusivity** – making our grounds safely accessible for people of all ages and abilities

**Community** – the responsibility on the club as hub of the community, used by club members and by local community groups for increasingly diverse activities, to uphold high standards and to ensure safe participation in sporting and community activities





# The Importance of Creating a Safe Club

## Legal Obligations

1. Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act 2005
  - i. General Application Regulations 2007
  - ii. Construction Regulations 2013
2. Fire Services Act of 1981 & 2003
3. Code of Practice for Safety At Sports Grounds
4. The Northern Ireland Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds





## 2. The Elements of a Safe Club

- ▣ Safety Statement & Club Specific Risk Assessments
- ▣ Club Safety Walkaround of club premises
- ▣ Event Management and Notification
- ▣ Accident/Incident Reporting
- ▣ Contractor Assessment & approval
- ▣ 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Users

**Audits carried out at end of process, with reports sent to club**

Templates available at <https://learning.gaa.ie/SafeClub>

*The Elements of a Safe Club*

## Support Available



Niall Sheridan (Safety & Facilities Officer Kildare)

Patrick O' Brien (National Health & Safety Manager)

Sinead Leavy (Insurance Manager)

Marsh (GAA insurance Broker Resources)

Monthly Teams Calls (if required)



# Documentation



## Essential Documentation

- ❑ Up-to-date and valid Safety Statement or Safety Folder
  - To include risk assessments
- ❑ Premises Walkaround completed at least annually
- ❑ Event Management plans & controls.
- ❑ Fire Register
- ❑ Contractor Assessments
- ❑ Accident/ Incident Report forms
- ❑ 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Users



<https://learning.gaa.ie/SafeClub>



## Safe Club Documents

Health & Safety templates for GAA clubs to use to comply with Health & Safety legislation. Please ensure all information is specific to your GAA club.

- ★ Club Safety Statement
- ★ Event Management Plan
- ★ Safe Club Premises Health & Safety Walkaround
- ★ Safe Club Accident/Incident/Near Miss Report Form
- ★ Matchday Pre Planning Checklist
- ★ Safe Club Employee Induction Form
- ★ Safe Club Medical History Form
- ★ Safe Club Sample Meeting Agenda
- ★ Contractor Assessment

### 3. Case Study (i) – Safe Club Initiative



All clubs nominated a person to be their **Safe Club Leader (SCL)**. The SCL was the single point of contact and along with the club chairperson and club secretary and other members of their club they took on the responsibility to deliver the Safe Club programme.

## 3. Case Study (i) – Safe Club Initiative

- Started at 'Zero Base' to now '**30 Clubs**' Engaging
- Notifications of Fund-Raising Events (Zero to **80%**)
- Risk Assessments Specific to Individual Clubs (**100%**)
- Proper Live Working Safety Statement (**100%**)
- Event Management Plans / Checklists (**100%**)
- Audits of Clubs – Governance (Average Score **80%**)
- Club Grounds & Facilities (Average Score **85%**)

## 4. Scenarios – Match-Day

- What checks should be made ahead of a club match?
- What questions should we be asking?





# 4. Scenarios – Match-Day

## □ Safe Access And Egress

- Gates, fences, walls in good conditions
- Adequate lighting
- No trip hazards
- Ramps and steps clear and highlighted
- Railings where necessary
- Waste collections

## □ Clubhouse

- Clean and safe facilities for teams & referee
- Non-slip surfaces
- No trip hazards
- Fire safety equipment
- No blocked doors for windows
- Will bar be in use? Are toilet facilities open?

## □ Is it an underage match?

- Child protection
- Temporary goalposts? Procedures, checks.

## □ Small or large attendance expected?

- Parking – stewarding; general maintenance
- Spectator facilities – safe banks, accessibility, free from hazards
- Garda need to be informed?
- Pre-event meeting required?

## □ Medical/First Aid

- Team medical?
- Trained first aid personnel?
- Stocked & maintained first aid kits? Do you know where they are?
- Ambulance access?
- Defibrillator?

## 4. Scenarios – Raised Score Boards

- What are the risks?
- Can these be eliminated?
- Can they be controlled?
- Is documentation required?



# 4. Scenarios – Club Fundraising Events

- What are the additional hazards?
- Who is at risk?
- Are there additional insurance risks?



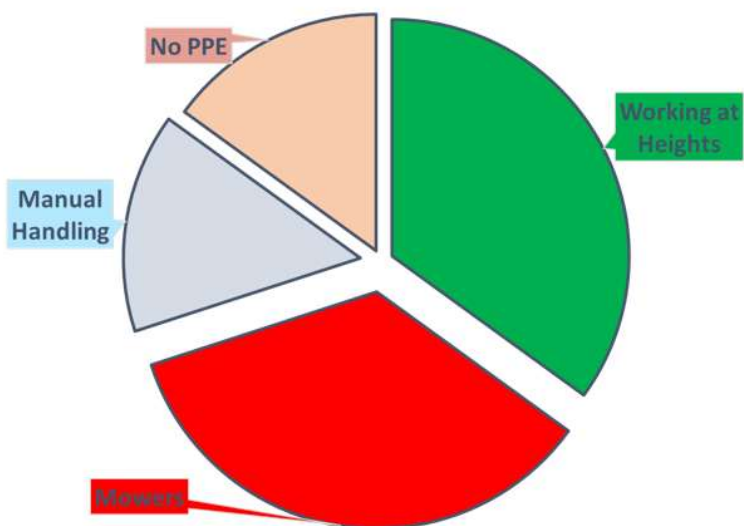
## 4. Scenarios – Community Employment Scheme

- What extra measures are needed to keep workers safe?
- What documentation is needed to
  - ▣ Control risks
  - ▣ Reduce the risk of claims?
  - ▣ Training



# 4. Scenarios – Community Employment Scheme

Employers Liability Claims – cause of claims



Flat Tyre – raised guard  
Reserve €150,000



Defective Equipment

# Ceisteanna?

