



C.L.G WATTY GRAHAM, AN GLEANN CHILDREN'S OFFICER ROLE

The Club Children's Officer is a senior position of responsibility with Watty Graham's and careful consideration is given when electing or selecting a person to fulfil this role. This position is compulsory. Formerly known as the Youth Officer, the title of this post is being amended to reflect the legal status of a child in Ireland.

The adopted definition by the GAA of a child is any person under the age of 18 years, excluding a person who is not or has not been married.

The Children's Officer shall have as his/her primary aim the establishment of a child and youth centred ethos within the Club and will be viewed by many as the link between the children/young people or their parents and the Club. The person chosen for this role shall have the confidence of parents, mentors and children alike as somebody that can represent the views of others and ensure that the Club acknowledges and delivers upon their responsibilities at all times. The Club Children's Officer shall be a person of high integrity, shall have good communicative skills and shall have knowledge as to how the Club can ensure the rights of young people are respected and maintained. It is the responsibility of the Children's Officer to regularly report to the Executive Committee on how Club policy and procedures and the participation of young people in the Club may be impacting on the welfare and safeguarding of underage players and their coaches/mentors.

The Club Children's Officer should;

- 1: Ensure, in as far as possible, that all Players, Coaches/Team mentors, Parents/Guardians, Officials and spectators adhere to the GAA Code of Best Practice for Youth Sport.
- 2: Assist with organising the delivery of the Code of Ethics (ISC/SportNI) training within the Club and other appropriate training in consultation with the Club's Designated Person.
- 3: Distribute copies of the GAA Joint Code of Behaviour at Club level and ensure that all mentors in particular sign and abide by the Code.
- 4: Influence policy and practice within Watty Graham's in order to prioritise children's and young people's needs. The Children's Officers do not have the responsibility to investigate or validate child protection allegations or concerns within the Club. The liaison person appointed by the Club to deal with such concerns is the Designated Person as per the GAA Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse (Fourth Edition).

For further and more detailed information on this role, consult the Child Welfare section of the GAA website, www.gaa.ie