

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 5 E Z I N E

Greetings for the new year

Áthbhliain fé shéan is faoi mhaise daoibh ó Offaly Sports Partnership
(Happy New Year to you and yours from all at Offaly Sports Partnership)

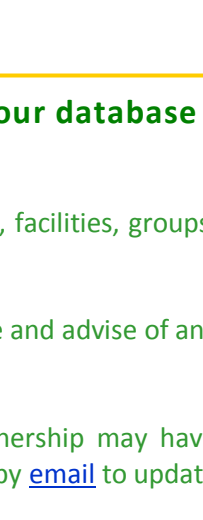
Operation Transformation National Walk

The Operation Transformation National Walk 2015 takes place on Saturday, 17th January at 10am along the Grand Canal.



Assemble at the Daingean Road car park from 9.30am and join us on our 4k walk along the Grand Canal, setting out from the start of "Fiona's Way", walking to and returning from Lock 26. Club mates, families, friends, people with disabilities all welcome.

Come along and kick start your Operation Transformation.



Notes for clubs, facilities, groups and organisations on our database

Offaly Sports Partnership's databases

Offaly Sports Partnership is currently in the process of updating its clubs, facilities, groups, organisations and schools' databases.

Clubs and facilities, please review the clubs and facilities directories online and advise of any changes by email.

Schools, groups and organisations, if you are concerned that the Partnership may have incorrect details for your school, group or organisation, please contact us by email to update your details.

Please also be advised that due to cost cutting measures, all future Offaly Sports Partnership correspondence in relation to our programmes will now be carried out by email, therefore I would appreciate it if you could please furnish me with an email address for our records.

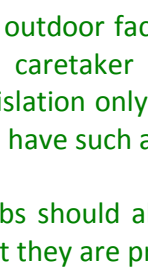
Child protection training

The Irish Sports Council has revised its child protection training programme. The new programme consists of three workshops, each workshop lasting three hours: -

- Safeguarding 1 - Basic awareness
- Safeguarding 2—Designated Liaison Person, the club children's officer
- Safeguarding 3—Designated Liaison Person, reporting to statutory authorities

Keep an eye on our website and facebook for dates of new courses.

Garda Vetting - what clubs need to know and do now



An Garda Síochána GARDA VETTING APPLICATION FORM

An Garda Síochána Use Only
Reference No.:

FIS Ref No:

NOTE TO APPLICANT

- The Enquiry Form must be completed in full using BLOCK CAPITALS (Please state N/A if details are not applicable)
- Writing must be clear and legible
- Return the completed form to Federation of Irish Sport, Irish Sport HQ, National Sports Campus, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.
- Do not send this form to The Garda Central Vetting Unit or to any Garda Station

To be completed by the Applicant

NGB/Organisation:	Club:
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In 2015, new legislation regarding Garda Vetting will come into force. The essence of this legislation will be that anyone who has ongoing contact with children, in the field of leisure or sport whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, other than those who assist 'occasionally' or in the event of a family or personal relationship, must be vetted.

What this means for clubs?

If you have children involved in your club, all staff and volunteers who have direct contact with children must be vetted. It is not necessary for all committee members to be Garda Vetted but it is essential if they have direct contact with children.

Regarding additional persons (e.g. caretaker, etc) clubs will have to make the assessment themselves. For example, in one club the caretaker may only be responsible for outdoor facilities and may not have any role working with children. In another club the caretaker may be responsible for supervising changing and shower areas. The legislation only requires vetting of persons working with children. If the caretaker does not have such a role, a club is not committing any offence by not having them vetted.

Clubs should also look at their current recruitment policies and procedures to ensure that they are properly managed, enforced and comply with the new legislation.

Furthermore, club members should attend Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport workshops with their Local Sports Partnership.

When the legislation is enacted: -

- It will be illegal for an individual to start working with children or vulnerable adults before successfully completing the Garda Vetting process.
- Individuals who are registered with a Club and have been vetted successfully prior to the commencement of the legislation are eligible to continue work within the club.

Definitions

- A child refers to a person under the age of 18 years.
- Occasional contact is "now and then" or a once off event, such as a sports day. It is up to clubs to assess whether a persons contact is 'occasional' or not.

What to do now?

- Start the Garda Vetting process immediately for all unvetted and new volunteers.
- Prior to enactment of the legislation, current staff and volunteers can continue their role within the club while their application is being processed.
- Once legislation is enacted (expected early 2015), current and new staff, and volunteers cannot have access to vulnerable adults and children as it will be illegal to do so. Please note the application process may take some time so it is critical that all staff and volunteers are vetted immediately to avoid any disruption to club activities.
- Most clubs will be affiliated to a National Governing Body (NGB - e.g. GAA, FAI, etc). In this instance, clubs should contact their own NGB for support and further information.
- Clubs that are not affiliated to an NGB or whose NGB does not provide a vetting service can apply to be Garda vetted through the Federation of Irish Sport (FIS) Access Garda Vetting Facility. The FIS facility will provide access for FIS member organisations and other non member sporting organisations to Garda Vetting where such organisations do not have access to an Authorised Signatory within their own organisation or through another group facility. Organisations wishing to access the service should contact Conn Mc Cluskey (conn.mccluskey@irishsport.ie or 01 6251155 / 0831285169) for details of how to apply for access to the service and how the facility will be administered. Alternatively for more information on the facility provided by FIS, check out they Federation's website

Local projects / programmes

Offaly Sports Partnership delivers a range of projects and programmes in Offaly catering for a wide variety of target groups. Among these target groups are: -

- Adults
- Low income communities (priority target group)
- Older people (priority target group)
- People of an ethnic minority (priority target group)
- People with a disability (priority target group)
- Post primary students
- Primary school pupils
- The unemployed (priority target group)
- Travellers (priority target group)
- Women and girls (priority target group)
- Youth at risk (priority target group)

Programmes on offer for some of these target groups include: -

- Meet and train (walking and jogging groups) for adults. Up to five meet and train groups will be supported in Offaly in 2015. A number of these programmes will link into the nationwide Operation Transformation programme which has returned to our screens in January



- A range of physical activity programmes for older people will be delivered in 2015, among them the Go for Life Games in the first half of the year; and an o50s boccia league in the latter half of the year.

- A number of athletics programmes are currently underway addressing the sporting needs of people of ethnic minorities. Additional programmes will be coming on-stream in quarters two and three of the year. Contact Eamonn on 057 93 46843 or by email for more information on these programmes.



- Two physical activity programmes for people with disabilities are currently underway. Both programmes are being run in conjunction with Aura Tullamore; the first programme is a pan disability keep fit programme, while the second programme is a swim programme for children with intellectual disabilities. Contact Aura Tullamore on 057 93 29398 to book into either of these programmes.



- A range of physical activity programmes for primary school pupils will be delivered in 2015. The first event of the year will be Offaly's annual inter schools SPORTSHALL Athletics championships due to take place the week commencing 9th February. Qualifying teams will go on to represent Offaly at the All Ireland SPORTSHALL Athletics Championships; and the All Ireland Festival of SPORTSHALL Athletics in March in Athlone.

A fitness testing programme and an Offaly inter schools swim gala are also on the cards for 2015. Contact Eamonn on 057 93 46843 or by email for on these programmes.

Additional programmes for specific target groups will come on-stream during the course of the year.

Other programmes on offer in 2015 may include: -

Be Active After School Activity Programme - an exciting initiative aiming to improve the physical activity patterns of school children by introducing them to a wide variety of activities in a fun, supportive, positive environment where everyone is involved.



The programme is designed for seven and eight year olds, led out by trained teacher leaders who in turn are supported by parents in the delivery of the programme, and takes place after school on school grounds.

The programme is free and available to all primary schools in Offaly; and can also assist your school in achieving its Active School Flag.

If your school is interested in availing of this programme, please contact the office on 057 93 57462 or by email to register your interest. For more information on the programme please visit www.beactiveasap.ie



Bikeweek.ie

Bike Week 2015 - 13th to 21st June, a week long celebration of all things cycling in the county



Usually held in June



Usually held in July

Keep an eye on our website and facebook page for information on any of the aforementioned projects / programmes or upcoming projects / programmes. Alternatively, contact the office on 057 93 57462 or by email for more information

To remove your name from our mailing list, please click here

Questions or comments? Email us or call 057 93 57462

Offaly Sports Partnership is a sub group of Offaly County Council, funded by the Irish Sports Council and hosted by the Local Community Development section of Offaly County Council.