

CHANGES TO GARDA VETTING

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016, which is scheduled to commence on the 29th April 2016 will provide a legislative basis for mandatory vetting of anyone who is to undertake certain work or activities relating to children or vulnerable persons. The Garda Central Vetting Unit shall be now known as the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Siochana.

What are the main changes?

- *Mandatory*: the main change is in relation to Vetting becoming mandatory. If a person intends to undertake relevant work, the relevant organisation must get a vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau.
- *Relevant Work*: this refers to work which directly involves children or vulnerable adults. This would be a person who is coaching, teaching, driving them around and so on. A person at a club whose contact with children or vulnerable adults is merely incidental may not be required to get a vetting disclosure, for example the greenkeeper, unless coaching children or vulnerable adults would not need to be Vetted. S/He is simply doing their job and not directly interacting with children or vulnerable adults. There must be a valid reason for Vetting this person.
- *Vetting Forms*: a new vetting form will be required to be completed, with additional information required.
- *Identity*: the identity of the applicant must be validated by the relevant organisation who are requesting the vetting be carried out.

What does this mean for my club?

1. One of the main issues for clubs is to determine who requires Vetting and who does not. Those that will work directly with children or vulnerable adults must be vetted. If an individual is helping out on a once off basis, they will not require to be vetted. This is referred to as merely incidental contact. If this assistance becomes a regular occurrence, then they will need to be vetted.
2. All vetting forms completed are to be returned to the office through the club's administrators. There is a declaration for the club's Secretary / Chairman to sign off that they have witnessed the original copy of the person's ID, i.e. they have validated the identity of the individual. Copies of said identification will also have to be sent with the vetting forms. The purpose of this is to validate the individuals Name, Date of Birth and Address and in order to do so a guideline on how to verify identity will be provided to clubs.
3. Clubs who have people working with / coaching young people or vulnerable adults who are not Garda Vetted will be in breach of the Act and are at risk of prosecution. It is very simple to determine who at the club is required to be Garda vetted and who is not.
4. The Vetting process could be completed within 10 days, providing all information and documentation is provided. This shortened timeframe allows clubs to complete the vetting process for an individual relatively quickly.

What does this mean for the individual being vetted?

1. If you are working directly with children and vulnerable adults at your PPUI affiliated club, you then are required to be Garda Vetted. This process must be carried out through your PPUI affiliated club.
2. If you have not completed a Garda vetting form and submitted it to your PPUI affiliated club, you then cannot work with / coach children or vulnerable adults.
3. You must prove your identity to your club by showing at least 2 forms of identification. A copy of all forms of ID used must accompany the Vetting form.

Common Misconceptions

There are several misconceptions going around in relation to Garda Vetting and the need to have people vetted. The new law is very clear, a person working with a child or vulnerable adult **MUST** be vetted but only if they are working directly with children or vulnerable adults. The green keeper cutting the fairways while Juveniles play on the course would **NOT** need to be vetted. If s/he is also the club coach, they would need to be vetted. There is also no need to restrict play while Juveniles use the course.

How does a club get an individual vetted?

1. Download PPUI Garda Vetting form. (Individual or Club Administrator)
2. Complete Vetting Form NVB 2 (Individual being Vetted)
3. If person being Vetted is under 18 a parent / guardian must complete consent form.
4. Verify identity of the individual being Vetted (Club Administrator).
 - a. Use PPUI Garda Vetting – 100 point check to determine if forms of identity are acceptable.
 - b. Sign the declaration form stating Club have verified identity of individual
5. Post completed vetting form, identity verification and declaration document, parental consent form (if required) and copies of identification to the PPUI Garda Liaison at the below address:

PPUI Garda Vetting Liaison, Private and Confidential, PPUI, Irish Sport HQ,
National Sports Campus, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

Where can I get more information?

You can find more information at www.citizensinformation.ie or through the National Vetting Bureau's website when it is launched at the end of April.

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