


GAA Social Media Policies & Guidelines

Polasaí & Treoirínte CLG maidir leis na Meáin Shóisialta

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Introduction

MAINTAINING A POSITIVE PRESENCE ONLINE FOR THE GAA

The world of social and digital media is an enjoyable and engaging place. As a GAA official, volunteer, player or member, you will often encounter this world. This document has been put together to help, educate and guide those who use social media in an official GAA capacity. The benefits for the GAA are vast when used in a responsible manner and in compliance with the guidelines and policies.

Vision

“The vision of the GAA is that everybody has the opportunity to be welcomed to take part in our games and culture, to participate fully, to grow and develop and to be inspired to keep a lifelong engagement with our Association.”

This vision should inform all our communications, including social media.

Digital guidelines

These guidelines will evolve over time as new technology and platforms emerge. They currently deal with the social media world as it is today, and keep a few basic aims for the GAA in mind:

- To promote and develop positive online discussion of the GAA
- To protect the reputation of official GAA social media platforms online
- To help moderate discussions appropriately
- To ensure the GAA provides an official voice in this area

You can help the GAA maintain an active and positive presence online, enhancing the experience of our supporters for the benefit of us all.





Introduction

The GAA is actively engaging our audiences online. In doing so, we must take into account some key challenges:

- When members share opinions online, they may reflect positively or negatively on the Association.
- Individuals or organisations outside the GAA may use digital and social media to challenge the Association's rules/regulations and its reputation. The GAA will defend its position in such circumstances.
- GAA topics are widely discussed throughout all social media platforms. It is important therefore that the Association uses these same platforms to promote and outline official GAA policies.

We engage with online audiences, not just on Facebook and Twitter, but also on blogs and other emerging social and digital media platforms. This GAA Saocial Media Policies and Guidelines document will allow our officials and members to develop an active positive and responsible presence online, enhancing the experience and enjoyment for everyone's benefit.

The Gaelic Players Association has also issued a series of social media guidelines to its membership. These guidelines include advice on how players should manage their reputations locally and nationally.

The whole area of social media is an exciting one for the GAA which we should embrace.

Lisa Clancy
GAA Director of Communications



1. Registration

BUILDING THE GAA FAMILY ONLINE

The GAA's online presence is made up of a network of individuals, operating websites and social media channels at club, county, provincial and international levels. We want to ensure that a common set of guidelines and policies are in place so that we are all working in unison as one GAA Family.

We are all part of the same Association, so it is important that clubs, County Boards and provinces register their digital channels with the GAA at national level.

In that way, anyone who speaks on behalf of the GAA is authorised to do so, ensuring we work together to give the GAA an appealing online presence. You will need to register your official GAA website and social media channels with your relevant County PRO. The PRO has the responsibility of managing all areas of social media.





2. Using Social Media

BEING RESPONSIBLE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Listed below are our guidelines for communicating on social media forums and other online platforms. These guidelines will help us manage what is being said about the GAA on social media platforms, and how we and our audience interact.

These guidelines:

- Apply to GAA members, players, officials or contractors who create or contribute to blogs, wikis, social networks, virtual worlds, or any other social media platforms;
- Outline the principles that apply when engaging in social media activity on behalf of the GAA, or through official GAA social media channels;
- Include a section for members referring to the GAA while using social media platforms in a personal capacity.

All GAA members are encouraged to take part in social media but the Association expects each individual to follow these guidelines. In that way everyone participates in a responsible, respectful and relevant manner that protects our reputation.

All GAA members are encouraged to take part in social media but the Association expects each individual to follow these guidelines.



THE GUIDELINES - WHEN OFFICIALLY REPRESENTING THE GAA

The following nine principles will help guide our members who represent the GAA in an online, official capacity when speaking on behalf of the Association.

1. Follow Association Values

Approach online communities using sound judgment and common sense. Adhere to the Association's values, as well as other applicable policies. Please familiarise yourself with the GAA's official guide and club constitution, available from www.gaa.ie.

2. Be Transparent

Make it clear that you volunteer or work for the GAA. Your honesty will be noted in social media environments. If you are writing about the GAA, use your real name, identify your position within the Association, and be clear about your role.

If you have a vested interest in what you are discussing, be the first to say so. You should neither claim nor imply that you are speaking on the Association's behalf – instead, use a disclaimer. For example:

“The GAA accepts no responsibility for the opinions expressed on this forum, which are those of the individuals expressing them, and do not necessarily represent the views of the GAA.”

3. Confidential Information

- When posting on the internet do not disclose any information that is confidential or proprietary to the Association, or confidential to any third party that has disclosed information to the Association.
- When in doubt, do not post. You are personally responsible for your words and actions online.
- As an official GAA online spokesperson, you must ensure that your posts are completely accurate and not misleading. They should not reveal any non-public information regarding the Association. Use sound judgment and common sense; if there is any doubt, **DO NOT POST IT.**

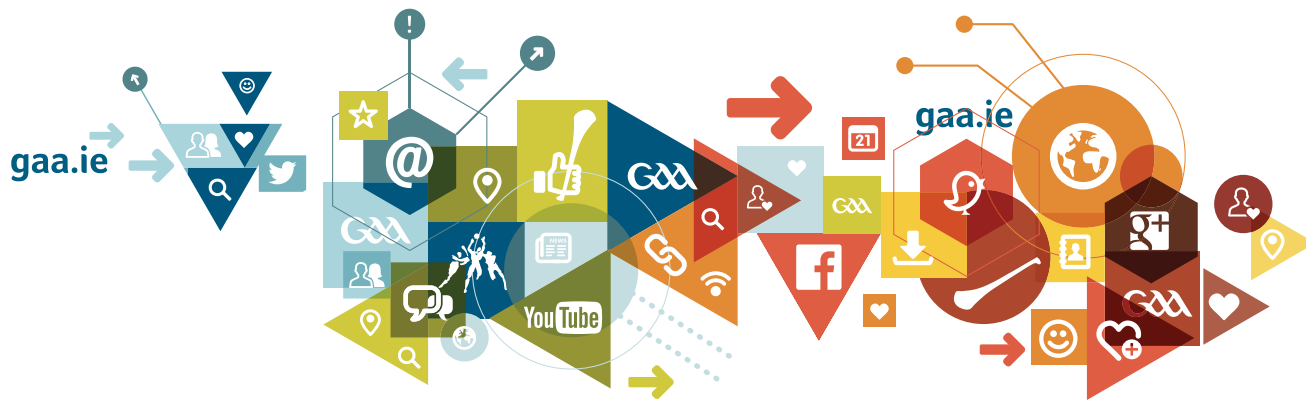


VALUES OF THE GAA

Respect
Community Identity
Teamwork

Player Welfare
Amateur Status
Inclusiveness





4. Be Respectful

- If you are representing the GAA in an official capacity, it is important that your posts convey the same positive, volunteer-led spirit that the GAA instils in all of its communications. Be respectful of all individuals, races, religions and cultures. How you conduct yourself online not only reflects on you – it also reflects directly on the Association.
- When disagreeing with the opinions of others online, keep it appropriate and polite. If you find yourself in a situation that might become antagonistic, do not get defensive or disengage from the conversation abruptly. It is also important not to respond in the heat of the moment, in a way you may regret later. Feel free to seek advice or disengage from the dialogue in a polite manner that reflects well on the GAA.

5. Be Honest

- Stick to your area of expertise and feel free to provide your unique perspective on non-confidential activities of the GAA.
- Keep in mind that you won't always know all the answers. Don't be afraid to seek help and advice from others who may be better informed than you.

6. Use of Imagery

- Internet postings should not include Association logos or trademarks without permission.
- Please respect brand, trademark, and copyrighted information and imagery.
- Do not post pictures of others without their permission.

7. Respect the law

- Internet postings must respect copyright, privacy, fair use, financial disclosure, and other applicable laws.
- Security is essential. When using social network sites and official GAA websites you may wish to pass on interesting content or links. Be careful, and do not blindly repost something without checking the content.
- Avoid linking to outside websites unless you trust the source.
- Before clicking on unfamiliar links, pay attention to the security warnings that pop up on your computer. These protect you, the GAA and our members from computer viruses and malware.
- When using Twitter, Facebook and other social networking tools, follow their terms and conditions.



8. Don't plagiarise

- Give credit where credit is due. Do not violate the rights of others by claiming ownership of something that is not yours, or by using someone else's content without their permission. Make sure that other people are credited for, and approve of, your use of their content. Do not use the copyrights, trademarks, publicity rights, or other rights of others without the necessary permissions of the rights-holders.

9. Dealing with major mistakes

- Correct any mistake immediately and make it clear what you've done to fix it.
- If it is a major mistake, let your PRO, Secretary or Chairperson know immediately so appropriate action can be taken to minimise the impact.
- The GAA reserves the right to withdraw certain posts, and to remove inappropriate comments.





THE GUIDELINES – WHEN USING SOCIAL MEDIA PERSONALLY

As a member, player or official of the GAA, you are not always speaking for the Association when you are on social media. The GAA respects your right to use these media platforms in a personal capacity, but we would ask that you remember the implications of referring to the GAA when you do.

Recognise when the GAA might be held responsible for your behaviour online, and follow these principles when you are using social media channels as a private individual.

1. Adhere to the GAA's Official Guide and Club Constitution, as well as other applicable documents. All GAA members are subject to the GAA Code of Behaviour when online, even when they are not acting on behalf of the GAA.
2. You are responsible for your actions but remember that those actions may have consequences for the GAA. You have a responsibility when using social media platforms to not do anything online that might tarnish the GAA's image and reputation or bring the Association into disrepute.
3. Look out for compliments and criticism. Even if you're not online as a spokesperson for the GAA, if you spot positive or negative remarks about the GAA that look important, forward them to your local PRO.
4. Leave it to the experts. If you see negative posts about the GAA, or see non-members trying to spark a negative conversation, avoid the temptation to react, unless you are an official GAA spokesperson. Again, forward the post to your local PRO to address such comments.
5. Do not mix your official GAA role with your personal life online. Not everyone will be able to make the distinction between the two. While the GAA respects freedom of speech, remember that all online users can see everything you post. Use your judgement and common sense.
6. Never disclose non-public information regarding the GAA, including confidential information.
7. Remember that it may cause conflict if you take a position online that is counter to the GAA's interests, policies and regulations.





COMMENTS

Keeping it friendly

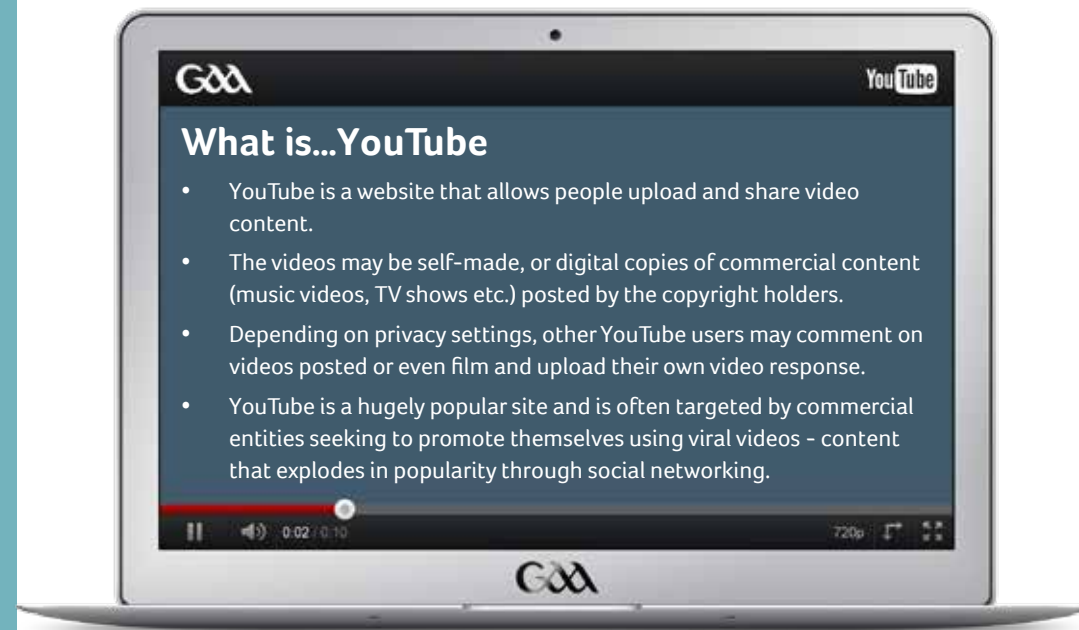
In order to keep forums on social media useful to audiences, we need rules of conduct. A clear policy on comments outlines what is acceptable and appropriate. The comments policy should be displayed on all official GAA social media forums.

Here is our policy for you to post;

Comments Policy

- This is an open forum. We encourage you to get involved. However, this is also a family-friendly forum, so we ask that you follow these guidelines. Posts and comments that breach these guidelines will be removed.
- We do not allow comments or submissions that are violent, sexually explicit, obscene, racist, abusive, hateful, defamatory, libellous or inappropriate relating to under age players.
- We do not allow comments that suggest or encourage illegal activity.
- We do not allow solicitations, advertisements, promotion or endorsements of unapproved products or services.
- You take part in this forum at your own risk, taking personal responsibility for your comments, username and any information you provide.
- The appearance of external links does not constitute official endorsement by the GAA.

For more information visit the official GAA site, www.gaa.ie



What is...YouTube

- YouTube is a website that allows people upload and share video content.
- The videos may be self-made, or digital copies of commercial content (music videos, TV shows etc.) posted by the copyright holders.
- Depending on privacy settings, other YouTube users may comment on videos posted or even film and upload their own video response.
- YouTube is a hugely popular site and is often targeted by commercial entities seeking to promote themselves using viral videos - content that explodes in popularity through social networking.



DISCLAIMERS

Protecting against libel and legal liability

Where people leave comments on forums on official GAA websites or social media channels, it is necessary to post a disclaimer. This is a precaution to protect the GAA so that it is not legally liable for those comments.

Here is a good example of a disclaimer;

“The [insert name of your club] does not accept any responsibility for the opinions expressed on this forum, which are those of the individuals expressing them, and do not necessarily represent the views of [insert name of your club].”

When you post on such forums, make it clear that you are posting in a personal capacity, unless you are officially representing the Association in your post (in which case you should specify your role).

PROTECTING YOUNG PEOPLE ONLINE

Taking care out there

Many social networking sites attract teenagers and younger children. The GAA uses some of these social networking platforms.

Young people nowadays excel at technology, but this may not be the case with their social skills. Some may be at risk from online bullying, or from publishing personal information without considering the possible consequences.

When we operate on a social media channel used by young people, including children, we must ensure that the site is suitable for a family audience. This includes content that our users post on the site, and articles we post. If we link to outside sites, we must be sure those sites are also suitable for our audience.

The GAA takes the welfare of young people extremely seriously. Further details of our child welfare related policies can be found at :

www.gaa.ie/clubzone/child-welfare-and-protection





MODERATION

Respecting each other online

While we encourage everyone to participate, the GAA is not responsible for material that users post. We therefore ask users to respect the views of others when they post, even when they disagree with those views.

Designated GAA spokespersons can post directly without the approval of the Association.

With that comes responsibility. We expect our representatives to uphold certain standards to keep our sites safe for everyone. If someone posts libellous, defamatory, offensive or violent content, we will take action to remove that post.

We will not remove valid criticism of the GAA. If someone has something negative to say about us but does it in a civil manner, and in the context of an online conversation, we will facilitate such opinion.

The GAA reserves the right to withdraw certain posts and remove inappropriate comments. Any comments considered to be defamatory are not allowed.

What is moderation?

When someone posts a comment on a social media channel, the site administrator can 'moderate' that comment.

In other words, they review the content and can approve it or not, before or after it is published. Different moderators operate different policies, but all are responsible for the material that appears on their sites. In addition to comments, this can also apply to video, audio and other content that a user posts on a site.

We expect our representatives to uphold certain standards to keep our sites safe for everyone.



Facebook settings

Facebook and Twitter do not allow pre-moderation so unsuitable comments should be deleted after they have been posted.

These sites allow you to block users who persistently break the rules of the site. However here are some precautionary measures and settings that can be used.

Tabs & Settings

A newly set-up Facebook Page has a Timeline and an About tab. The Timeline is the most powerful tool on Facebook. The About tab lets you share key information about your Page, such as your purpose. Control your Page from the Admin Panel, by clicking on Manage and then Edit Page, and apply these recommended settings:





AGE RESTRICTION

Facebook holds data on all users including their age, so you can designate the minimum age of users allowed to comment or post on your Wall. This adds a layer of additional protection for young people. Note that Facebook requires individuals to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account.

MOVE COMMUNICATION TO PRIVATE CHANNEL

Social media are public by nature, so there is always the chance that users will post negative opinions and comments.

When dealing with sensitive issues, be proactive. It may be appropriate to offer private communication channels to commenters, like an email address or a direct phone line, through which issues can be discussed.

WATCH OUT FOR BRAND IMPOSTERS

Brand imposters create unofficial pages that appear official. These pages may damage the image of the GAA. If you see one of these pages, report it directly to Facebook for removal, and also inform your local PRO. Removing a Facebook page may take some time.

Twitter settings

When setting up an official GAA Twitter profile, in the Bio section where you detail who you are it is important to include the statement “This is an Official Twitter Account of [insert county/club name]”.



GAA What is...An APP

An App
‘APP’ is an abbreviation of ‘application’.

An app typically refers to software used on a smartphone or mobile device such as the Android, iPhone, BlackBerry or iPad, as in “mobile app” or “iPhone app.”

But the phrase “web app” or “online app” is also used to mean software that you access and use while online, via a browser, instead of software residing on your computer.

Apps on mobile devices can range from the informative (weather forecasts, navigation, etc.) to the entertaining. There are apps for pretty much anything you can think of.

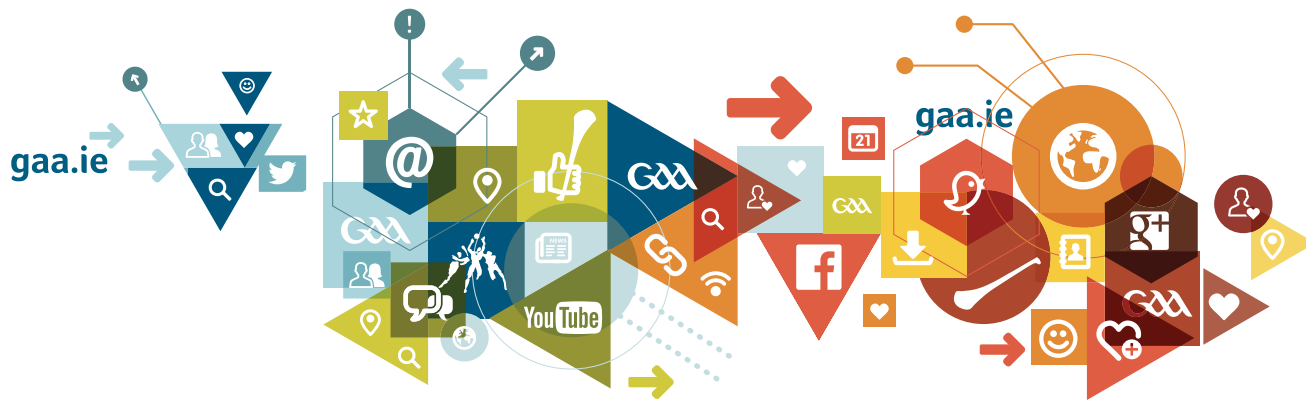
GAA Official GAA
ebow
★★★★☆ (8)

GET

Download on the **App Store**

Get it on **Google play**

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3. Best Practice

HOW BEST TO IMPLEMENT SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY FOR THE GAA

What we say and how we say it

Just as we take time and care in crafting other GAA guidelines, we should remember that our social media presence is part of our public personality.

Content is king

On official GAA social media channels and websites we should provide interesting and relevant content for our audiences, whether it be news, videos, pictures, information about the GAA or other content. Think about what kind of content will be useful to our visitors, and what information will be of interest to them.

Tone is essential

When we create content for our users, we set the tone. This gives us a head start in any conversation. Therefore it is important to set a positive, constructive tone that will reflect well on the GAA. Part of setting a positive tone is how we respond to feedback. Consider what people post, and respond calmly and constructively.

Be open and honest

We are an Association backed by volunteers, which is to be celebrated. In our dealings with others on social media platforms, it is good for us to be spontaneous, open and engaging; and it's essential to be honest, respectful and transparent.

Listen to your audience

Social media offers the GAA a great way to find out what our audience really thinks of our Association. This also offers local clubs the opportunity to ask questions directly of its members. This enables conversations that might not otherwise happen, and it brings us closer to GAA members and fans all around the world.

We can all share in dialogue that will benefit both our members and the Association.

Think about what kind of content will be useful to our visitors, and what information will interest them.



Instant communication

Social media platforms are wonderful in that they offer people a way to communicate instantly with each other. This allows visitors to tell us what they think and to ask us questions. It also lets us respond instantly.

However, it is often better to take a moment to think about a response before posting it. In that way you can give it full consideration. Once you have posted a response, it is too late to change your mind.

The internet is forever

What goes on the net stays on the net. If you post something on behalf of the GAA, you can't take it back. So only post material that upholds the Association's reputation.

Be there

To set up an official GAA social media forum and then forget about it is like starting a conversation and wandering off while the other person is answering. Be there to respond to your visitors, and be available to the public.

How to use your time online

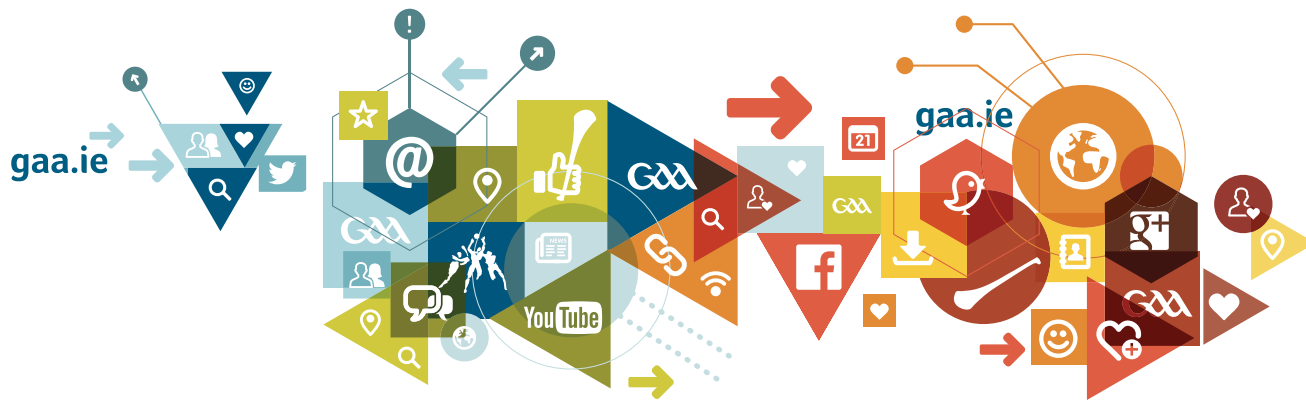
Our users can be online any time of the day, so we recommend that the PRO has the responsibility for online life and become your authorised spokesperson.

He or she can then decide:

- how long to dedicate daily to online activities;
- how much time to spend on each social media channel including Twitter and Facebook;
- whether to use social media management tools such as Hootsuite.

In this way, your spokesperson can allocate sufficient time to each channel, as well as manage your main website, find and create interesting content, and respond to users where appropriate.

It's often better to take a moment to think about a response before posting it. That way you can give it full consideration.



DEALING WITH FEEDBACK

When we use social media platforms, we open the conversation to anyone, so we can potentially invite negative feedback. We should be prepared to respond appropriately, quickly and effectively.

Here are some ways to do this;

Straight problems

If someone on a forum has a legitimate issue and has expressed it clearly, you should respond, taking steps to fix the problem. Whether you respond privately to the poster, or in a message viewable by the public, depends on the nature of the problem. If you respond privately, it is good to also leave a message on the forum saying that the problem is being dealt with, and by whom.

Constructive criticism

This also requires a response. If someone makes a suggestion, you can acknowledge the suggestion with a positive message, even if it is not appropriate to act on it. This builds trust with the audience.

Negative criticism

If someone has a real issue and is annoyed or angry, do not dismiss it out of hand because of the tone. Firstly check whether there is a genuine problem, thank the person for bringing it to your attention, and take steps to address it. Reassure the person that their issue is now being addressed.

Trolling and spam

A 'troll' is someone who, without a valid reason, adds disruptive or offensive posts or content to a forum. 'Spammers' are people who illegally post commercial or inappropriate content. Watch out for these and delete their posts.





4. Privacy Policy

PROTECTING OUR USERS

The GAA is committed to protecting our online visitors' privacy and security.

- When a user registers with one of our websites, we may use their information in the following ways:
- To monitor traffic and site usage so we can develop the site to serve our visitors;
- To notify our users of news, events, fixtures, ticket information and merchandising offers;
- We employ certain individuals and companies to work on our behalf. They have access to personal information only for the purpose of carrying out this work, which includes delivering packages, analysing data, helping us with marketing, and designing our website.

We will not disclose or sell our visitors' personal information outside the GAA or to those companies and individuals associated with us.

Our Privacy Policy

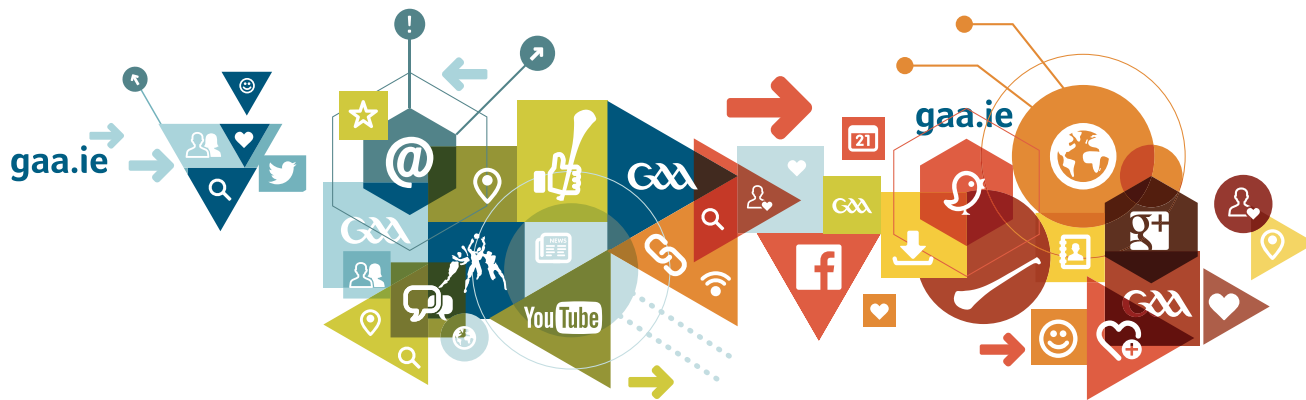
Anyone who runs an official GAA website should display our privacy policy on their site. It covers what user information we collect and how we may use it. You can see the policy in full at www.gaa.ie/privacy-statement or in the Appendix at the end of this document.

Cookies

We use cookies as a way to collect personal information. These are small pieces of data placed on a visitor's hard drive to store identifying information so that, for instance, registered users don't have to sign in every time they visit one of our sites. Visitors can change their preferences to refuse cookies.

Our privacy policy covers what user information we collect and how we may use it.

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5. Framework Glossary

Digital Media

Online and electronic communication channels beyond social media including e-zines / online newsletters, banner advertising, search engines, online directories and mobile communications.

Facebook

A social utility / website that connects people with friends and others who work, study and live around them.

Google Plus

Google+ does many of the same general things as Facebook but the big difference is that with Google+ you can choose who you want to share these things with. Often you don't want to share everything with everyone. Google+ allows you to choose which people you want in what Circle. You then use those Circles for all of your Google+ activity.

Linkedin

A professional network connecting users to their contacts. It helps you exchange knowledge, ideas, and opportunities with a broader network of professionals.

Moderation

The act of reviewing, approving and editing online content to ensure it conforms to guideline standards.

QR codes

A QR code is a two-dimensional matrix-code that can be scanned using a smartphone's camera. The contents can be decoded at a very high speed – hence the name 'Quick Response'.

The QR code has a greater capacity to store information within a smaller area than its predecessor the barcode, such as the data of a URL address. For this reason the QR code has become a useful marketing tool for brands.

Social Media

Social media is content created and shared by individuals on the web using freely available websites that allow users to create and post their own images, video and text information and then share that with either the entire internet or just a select group of friends.

Social Network

The grouping of individuals into specific groups, like small rural communities or a GAA Club. It is most popular online as some form of website where individuals are connected by one or more specific types of interdependency, such as friendship, common interest, dislikes or relationships. Examples of social networks include Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Spammer

People who illegally post commercial or inappropriate content.

Twitter

A social networking and microblogging service that allows you to send short text messages 140 characters in length, called "tweets", to your friends, or "followers."

Troll

Someone who, without a valid reason, adds disruptive or offensive posts or content to a forum. Here is a sample privacy policy that should be used on official GAA websites;



Appendix – Privacy Policy

PRIVACY STATEMENT, TERMS OF USE AND COOKIES NOTICE

The [insert name of club/organisation] (“we”) are committed to protecting your privacy and security. Please read this Privacy Statement and our Terms of Use carefully so that you are aware of the steps we take to protect your privacy, what information we collect and how we use it now or may use it in the future.

Controllers of Information

Any personal information provided to or gathered by [insert name of website] is controlled by [insert name of club/organisation].

Types of Information

We retain two types of information:

1. Personal Information

This is data that identifies you or can be used to identify or contact you and may include your name, date of birth, address, email address, telephone number (mobile and landline). We only collect personal information that is knowingly and voluntarily given.

2. Non-Personal Information

Like most websites, we automatically gather statistical and other analytical information collected on an aggregate basis of all visitors to this website. The information obtained in this way is purely statistical and only used in aggregate form – it cannot be used to identify you.



Purposes for Processing

If you submit information to this website and choose to receive further information from us, we may use the information you provide us with for the following purposes:

- We monitor customer traffic patterns and site usage to help us to develop the design and layout of the website;
- Personal details may be for purposes such as notifying you of GAA news, events, fixture, ticket, merchandising and player information which we think may be of interest to you;
- We will not put any information about you on general release nor will we disclose such information to organisations not associated with the GAA.
- We employ other companies and individuals to perform functions on our behalf such as delivering packages, analysing data, providing marketing assistance and designing and operating our website. Such companies and individuals have access to your personal information for the purpose of carrying out this work only. These enterprises will not use your data for any other purpose. Under no circumstances will these enterprises use any additional data about you to which they are party for any other purposes.

Cookies

We may obtain information about your general internet usage by using a cookie file which is stored on your browser or the hard drive of your computer. Cookies are widely used in order to make websites work, or work more efficiently, as well as to provide information to the owners of the website.

Cookies contain information that is transferred to your computer's hard drive. They help us to improve this website and to deliver a better and more personalised service. Some of the cookies we use are essential for this website to operate.

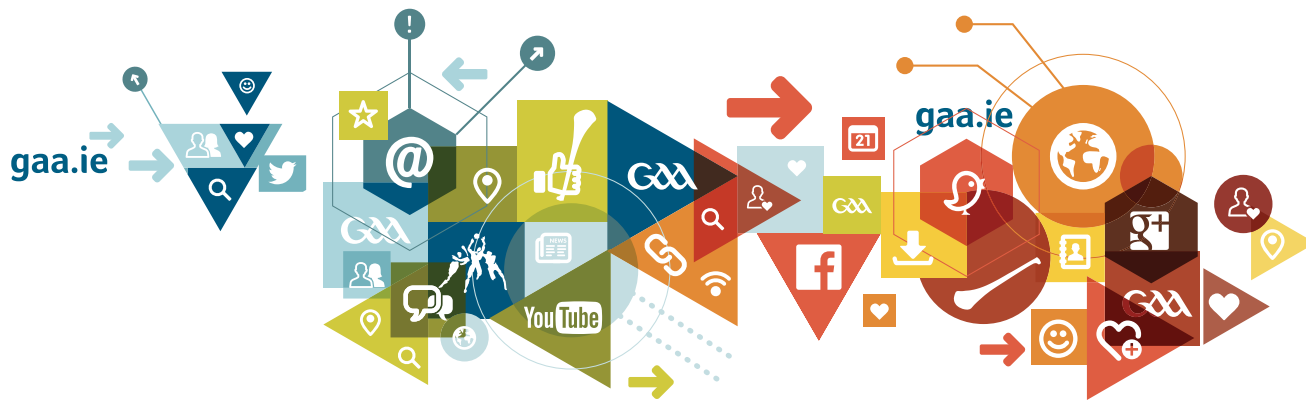
You may block cookies by activating the setting on your browser which allows you to refuse the setting of all or some cookies. However, if you use your browser settings to block all cookies (including essential cookies) you may not be able to access all or parts of this website. Unless you have adjusted your browser setting so that it will refuse cookies, our system will issue cookies as soon you visit this website.

Disclaimer

We recognise that we have legal obligations in terms of the collection and use of personal data made available to us.

This website is provided on an "AS IS" basis and we exclude all warranties or representations of any kind with respect to this website or its contents. In particular, we do not warrant or represent that the information contained on this website is accurate or up to date.

The contents of this website are designed to comply with the laws of Ireland and we cannot be held responsible for non-compliance with any local advertising or other laws in relation to this website or its contents.



Your Consent

By using our website you consent to collection and use of any information you provide to us by the GAA for the purposes described above. If we decide to change our Privacy Statement, we will post those changes on this page. We recommend you re-visit this page periodically to check for changes.

We endeavour to take all reasonable steps to protect your personal data including the use of encryption technology, but cannot guarantee the security of any data you disclose online. You accept the inherent security implications of sending information over the Internet and will not hold us responsible for any breach of security unless we have been negligent.

If you are under the age of 18 you may register on the website to receive newsletters and other information but only with parental or guardian consent.

If you do not wish to receive information about our products and services, or about services offered jointly with or on behalf of other organisations, you can decline the opportunity during registration.

You can request a copy of the personal information we possess and have any inaccuracies corrected. We may make a charge of €6.35 for providing such information to you. We will request proof of identity before processing such a request.

Please make any requests for information to the [insert name and address].

Disclosing Personal Information

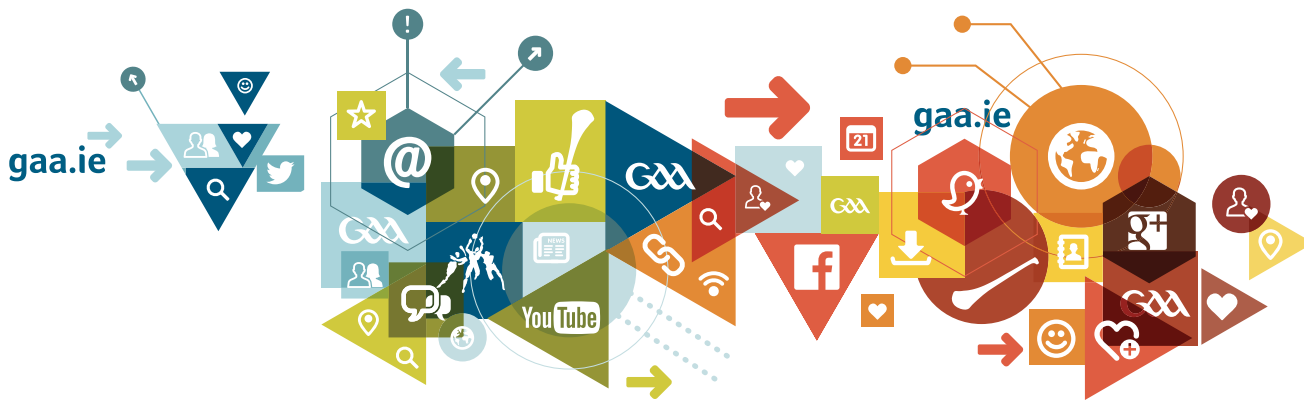
We may provide non-personal data to third parties, where such information is combined with similar information of other users of this website. We will disclose your personal data if we believe in good faith that we are required to disclose it in order to comply with any applicable law, a summons, a search warrant, a court or regulatory order or other statutory or legal requirement.

Otherwise we will not disclose personal data to third parties unless you have consented to this disclosure or unless the third party requires such personal data to operate this website (in such circumstances, the third party is bound by similar data protection requirements). The third parties to whom we may allow access to your personal data include our service providers which require to process such personal data in order to operate this website.

Changes to Privacy Statement

We may change this Privacy Statement from time to time by posting revisions on this website. Each time you enter this website you agree that the current version of the Privacy Statement current at that time shall apply to all data we hold about you.

If you have any queries or concerns about the privacy of your information, or how we use your information, please contact our [club/county].



TERMS OF USE

Your access to and use of this website is subject to these terms, the website Privacy Statement, the website copyright and any other terms contained on this web site (“Terms of Use”), whether or not you become a member of this website.

1 What you must do

1.1 You must use this website in a responsible manner.

1.2 If you are under 18 years of age, you must obtain a parent/ guardian’s consent prior to using this website.

2) What you must not do

2.1 You must not:

- use this website for any activities or post or transmit to or via this website any information or materials which breach any laws or regulations, infringe a third party’s rights, or are contrary to any relevant standards or codes;
- use this website in a way or post to or transmit to or via this website any material which interferes with other users or defames, harasses, threatens, menaces, offends or restricts any person or which inhibits any other user from using or enjoying this website;
- make any fraudulent or speculative enquiries, bookings, reservations or requests using this website;
- use another’s name, username or password without permission;
- post, or transmit via this website, any obscene, indecent, inflammatory or pornographic material or material that could give rise to civil or criminal proceedings;

- tamper with, hinder the operation of or make unauthorised modifications to this website;
- knowingly transmit any virus or other disabling feature to this website; and
- attempt any of the above acts or permit another person to do any of the above acts.

3) Third party content

3.1 Much of the information or advertising related to products, services provided on this website are the products, services and information of parties other than the GAA (“third parties”).

3.2 The third party products, services and information are not provided or endorsed by us and your legal relationship is with the third party supplier.

3.3 We have not checked the accuracy or completeness of the information or the suitability or quality of the information, products and services of the third parties. You must make your own enquiries with the relevant third party supplier direct before relying on the third party information or entering into a transaction in relation to the third party products and services supplied via this website. You should check with the third party supplier whether there are additional charges and terms which may apply.

3.4 We may receive fees and/or commissions from third parties for goods and services of such third parties displayed or made available on this website or accessible through a hyperlink on this website. You acknowledge and consent to us receiving the fees.

4) Prices and products and services are subject to change

4.1 All prices displayed and products and services offered to be supplied on this website are subject to change without notice.

5) Security

5.1 For security reasons we may require you to re-authenticate yourself from time to time, for example after a period of inactivity on the connection between your browser and the website servers. We are not responsible for any information you may lose if the website servers terminate your browser session due to prolonged periods of inactivity between your browser and the website servers.

6) Indemnity

6.1 You indemnify us and our officers, employees, agents and related bodies corporate from and against all actions, claims, suits, demands, damages, liabilities, costs or expenses arising out of or in any way connected to the use of this website by you or someone using your name and password.

7) Use of your information and material

7.1 When you send us any feedback, suggestions, ideas or other materials in relation to or via this website, you agree that we can use, reproduce, publish, modify, adapt and transmit them to others free of charge and without restriction, subject to our obligations in our Privacy Statement.



IMPLICATIONS OF IMPROPER USAGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Situations involving the inappropriate use of social media should not be underestimated by any GAA unit. Trolling, or personal or general attacks can have a real impact on the victims of such behaviour.

It is vital that a close eye is maintained on any social media platforms under the auspices of your unit. Page 17 (of the old guide – this may need to be changed) offers guidance for how to respond to an array of message types, including positive and negative.

Trolling, or personal or general attacks on your social media platforms should be deleted immediately and the general rule is not to ‘feed the troll’ – in other words do not get involved in a war of words as this is usually what they are looking for.

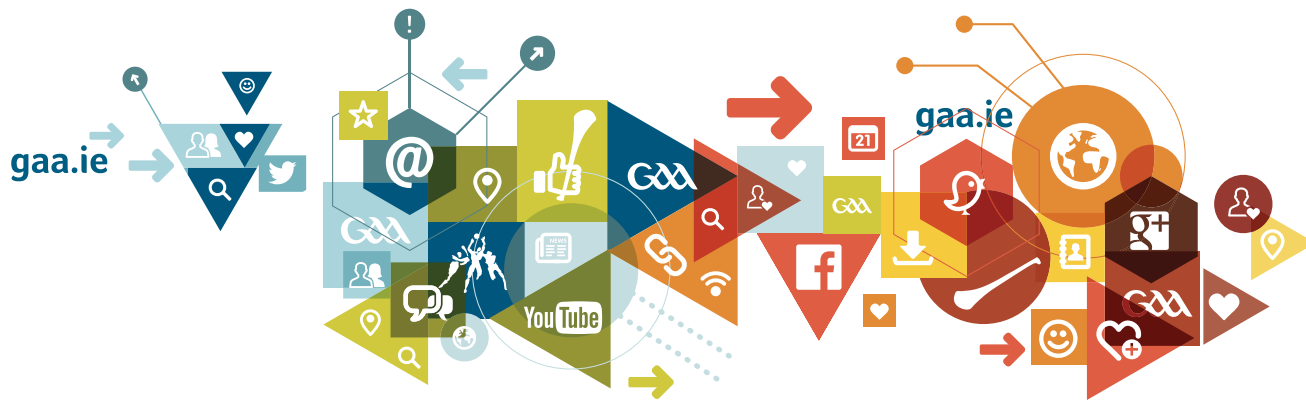
Should you be concerned about any inappropriate online behaviour then you should consult the GAA’s Code of Conduct as breach of our Social Media Policy is not only a breach of the GAA Code of Conduct but if carried out against an underage person i.e. under 18 year of age, is also a breach of our Code of Behaviour Underage.

The consistent inappropriate use of your social media platforms by an individual could also fall under the Association’s anti-bullying policy. This policy (available to download at https://www.gaa.ie/content/documents/publications/child_welfare/S9%20GAA%20Anti%20Bullying%20Statement.pdf) defines bullying as the repeated aggression, be it verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against others. This includes such behaviour in the virtual or online world of social media.

To publicly ridicule someone on the internet and social media – also known as viral shaming – is an increasingly common phenomenon, and one that can have pretty devastating consequences for the individual(s) involved. This should not be tolerated on any official GAA platforms and should it come to your attention that such behaviour is affecting a member of your club you should seek to support them to the best of your capacity. These are difficult situations to control as once material is released into the online world it cannot be easily retrieved, if at all.

The internet is forever.

However, online support websites such as www.spunout.ie (Ireland’s youth information website) can help offer practical steps to both avoid and respond to such situation.



IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In the GAA many of our Clubs avail of social media platforms to communicate generally with their membership. General communication will naturally include your underage membership. (The term underage in the GAA is used to describe children and young people who in law are classified as children until they reach 18 years of age).

It should be recognised that most people use social media positively, enjoy its use and benefit from the interaction with their friends and within the GAA with fellow team mates, opponents and general GAA membership. However, with new and emerging technologies there is always the potential for misuse and it is such misuse that may lead to examples of cyberbullying, grooming, online abuse, identity theft, encouragement of violent behaviour, potential exposure to age inappropriate content and the display of racist materials.

At Club level most Clubs now engage in social media interaction through the Club's Facebook, Instagram or Twitter accounts, all of which are most useful methods of communication both within the Club and with the public in general.

If your Club promotes the use of such accounts and you invite your underage membership to participate in general usage or in a young people's section then you must provide additional securities to ensure that they are not abused on line and that they themselves do not intentionally or otherwise post inappropriate comments or materials on Club website or accounts.

Any invitation or use by underage members of Club social media platforms must ensure parental knowledge and permission prior to the young person engaging in such communication. Your website should carry this message as part of a usage policy and also directions by which a young person and a parent may legitimately sign up to avail of the benefits of the Club social media platforms.

Additionally, the named individual or Officer of the Club with overall responsibility for managing and overseeing the content of Club social media platforms must also be highlighted and made known in the event of the need to raise any concerns regarding inappropriate materials or use of social media access.



WHAT IS INSTAGRAM-SNAPCHAT-WHATSAPP-PERISCOPE

What is Instagram?

Instagram is an online mobile photo-sharing, video-sharing and social networking service that enables its users to take pictures and videos, and share them on a variety of social networking platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a photo messaging application in which users can take photos, record videos, add text and drawings, and send them to a controlled list of recipients.

These sent photographs and videos are known as “Snaps”. Users set a time limit for how long recipients can view their Snaps after which they will be hidden from the recipient’s device and deleted from Snapchat servers.

What is Periscope?

Periscope at present is a live video streaming app available for iOS phones only. It allows you to watch and broadcast live video from your phone and saves the video footage on Twitter for 24 hours.

What is WhatsApp?

WhatsApp is an instant messaging app for smartphones that operates under a subscription business model. The proprietary, cross-platform app uses the Internet to send text messages, images, video, user location and audio media messages.

WhatsApp is a very useful way of communicating messages to groups within the GAA, i.e. for players in terms times for training and matches, club committees and members in relation to meetings and events, etc.





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