



Garda Vetting - Procedures

With new legislation implemented in 2015, it has been necessary to review policies involving Child Protection and Garda Vetting within clubs. The onus is being put on clubs, their coaches, volunteers and any adult member to act when any suspected report of child abuse is reported. New legislation now means that everyone is responsible for a child member or vulnerable adult of a club, even where the concerns arise outside the club and have nothing to do with the club.

The Irish Judo Association is registered with the Garda Vetting Unit in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Irish Judo Association is not registered with Access NI. The office of the Irish Judo Association holds an up to date IJA Vetting Register which notes the following:

- Name
- Position Vetted for i.e. Coach, Volunteer, Parent
- Date Vetted
- Foreign Vetting Required Y/N
- Foreign Clearance Letter received Y/N
- Date IJA Clearance Letter Issued
- Date of next Vetting following three-year period from last Vetting

All vetted personnel are issued with an IJA Clearance Letter which should be made available to any parent/guardian or coach who requests sight of same. The office of the Irish Judo Association will offer confirmation of Vetting on receipt of formal request.

Garda Vetting

New legislation on Garda Vetting means that this is no longer only required for coaches but now required for anyone who volunteers within the club. The volunteer aspect is quite onerous on judo clubs but must be complied with. As is the practice in many clubs, senior judoka can turn up a bit early for their training and may step onto the mat to help at the end of the junior training, parents who do not practice judo may also be assisting with paperwork or administration in and around the mat, if this is the case, they **all** need to be vetted. Essentially, anyone who is a volunteer will be required to be vetted. The Club Children's Officer will be responsible for ensuring all relevant volunteers complete a Garda Vetting form based on their knowledge of their club structure.

If a club has any a rota for people to help at the club, any person on that rota is required by law to be vetted i.e. a club may have a rota for parents to help bring junior members to competitions via carpool. Even though a parent/volunteer may appear only once on that rota, the structured nature of that volunteering system means that they fall within the new requirements of vetting.



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Furthermore, vetting must be carried out at a minimum of every three years. Any new coach/volunteer must be vetted **before** taking up their duties. These new policies are not merely best practice, they are the minimum legal requirement which needs to be met by all National Governing Bodies.

The E Vetting Process

- ✓ The Irish Judo Association is registered for E Vetting effective April 2017
- ✓ The applicant is asked by the Irish Judo Association to complete an 'NVB E Invitation', this is done by email and/or post via the [Judo Office](#).
- ✓ The completed form is returned by email and/or post to the [IJA Garda Vetting Officer](#) (Liaison Person) whose details are listed on the 'NVB E Invitation'. An email address must be supplied.
- ✓ The applicant must provide at least one piece of photo ID and one piece of proof of address to meet the requirements of the 100 points Identity Verification check (see below) and return same with the 'NVB E Invitation'. **Omission of Identity documents will lead to a delay in the Vetting Process.**
- ✓ Once the 'NVB E Invitation' is received by the Liaison Person (appointed by the Irish Judo Association and trained by Garda Vetting Unit for the role), he/she will register the information to the E Vetting Portal of the National Vetting Office.
- ✓ Incomplete or illegible forms will be returned by the Liaison Person
- ✓ The form cannot be emailed to the Liaison Person as an original signature on the 'NVB E Invitation' is required.
- ✓ When the Liaison Person is satisfied with the 'NVB E Invitation', the applicant's details are entered onto the National Vetting Database and an invitation is issued via email to the applicant to enter their data in the E Vetting Portal of the National Vetting Office.
- ✓ Once the applicant has submitted their details via the E Vetting Portal of the National Vetting Office, the vetting process begins, and the Liaison Person will receive responses from the National Vetting Office within a matter of days.
- ✓ Particular reference should be made to Overseas Police Clearance which is mentioned below in this document (P7) when foreign addresses are submitted to the E Vetting Portal of the National Vetting Office.
- ✓ An IJA Clearance Certificate will be issued to the applicant on instruction from the Liaison Person.
- ✓ If the returned E Vetting response contains a disclosure from the National Vetting Office, the Liaison Person will call a meeting of the Decision Committee.

Identity Verification

The 100-point check is a personal identification system, this information sheet has been developed to support organisations in verifying identity including date of birth and current address of vetting subjects (those applying to be Garda Vetted) as required. When conducting Garda Vetting, organisations should require vetting subjects to present identification totalling 100 points to ensure they are checking the correct person. At least one form of photographic evidence must be gathered. Please refer to the list below to ensure the supporting ID & Address Verification documents submitted with the 'NVB E Invitation' meet with the Identity Verification:



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Identification	Score	Tick
Irish driving licence or learner permit (new credit card format)	80	
Irish Public Services Card	80	
Passport (from country of citizenship)	70	
Irish certificate of naturalisation	50	
Birth certificate	50	
Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) card	50	
National Identity Card for EU/EEA/Swiss citizens	50	
Irish driving licence or learner permit (old paper format)	40	
Employment ID		
• ID card issued by employer (with name and address)	35	
• ID card issued by employer (name only)	25	
Letter from employer (within last two years)		
• Confirming name and address	35	
P60, P45 or Payslip (with home address)	35	
Utility bill e.g. gas, electricity, television, broadband (must not be less than 6 months old. Printed online bills are acceptable. Mobile phone bills are not acceptable)	35	
Public services card/social services card/medical card	25	
• With photograph	40	
Bank/Building Society/Credit Union statement	35	
Credit/debit cards/passbooks (only one per institution)	25	
National age card (issued by An Garda Siochana)	25	
Membership card		
• Club, union or trade, professional bodies	25	
• Educational institution	25	



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Correspondence		
• From an educational institution/SUSI/CAO	20	
• From an insurance company regarding an active policy	20	
• From a bank/credit union or government body or state agency	20	
Children under 16 years (any one of the following)		
• Birth certificate	100	
• Passport	100	
• Written statement by a principal confirming attendance at educational institution on a letter head of that institution	100	
Recent arrival in Ireland (less than 6 weeks)		
• Passport	100	
Vetting Subject is unable to achieve 100 points**		
• Affidavit witnessed by a Commissioner for Oaths	100	

Re-vetting

1. All individuals will undergo re-vetting after 3 years or as determined by the Irish Judo Association as being required by future circumstances.
2. Any individual may be re-vetted if information concerning suitability to work with children or vulnerable adults comes to the attention of the Irish Judo Association.

Completed NVB E Invitations

On receipt of completed 'NVB E Invitation', applicants for Garda vetting will be entered on a separate database by the Liaison Person with the following information:

- ✓ Name
- ✓ Identity verification confirmation
- ✓ Date of submission to the Unit

Information storage

All data is kept in accordance with the GDPR Act of 2018 by the Liaison Person on behalf of the Irish Judo Association. All information is kept in a secure cabinet at John F Martin & Co Solicitors, 28 Woodquay, Galway, Co Galway. The Liaison Person is the only key holder for the secure cabinet.



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Return of information

- ✓ The Liaison Person will be notified via the E Vetting Portal of any disclosed information pertaining to an applicant.
- ✓ Each application will be examined by the Liaison Person to determine the suitability of the applicant for the position applied for/presently in situ.

Processing the disclosed information

- ✓ The assessment of suitability will depend on the nature of the position applied for/presently held, the self-disclosure of any prosecutions or convictions and the seriousness, timing and any possible pattern that emerges of any information disclosed.
- ✓ The integrity of the applicant with regard to self-disclosure or lack of disclosure on the initial application form will be considered.
- ✓ On receiving information that may preclude the applicant, the E Vetting Portal will be checked for each detail to ensure it is correct and that the disclosed information refers to the applicant.
- ✓ If the applicant has self-disclosed the information and this agrees with the disclosure from the vetting unit, the decision must be made depending on the type and nature of the offences disclosed.
- ✓ If the applicant has not self-disclosed and information is received from the unit this requires to be checked with the applicant.

Disclosure of certain types of convictions/prosecutions will automatically preclude the applicant from a position working with children and/or vulnerable adults. Examples of offences that will automatically prohibit an applicant are:

- ✓ Any offence of a sexual nature
- ✓ Any offence against a child or of child abuse or child pornography
- ✓ An offence that causes serious harm
- ✓ Any offence of murder or manslaughter
- ✓ An offence of kidnapping
- ✓ A series of continuous offending that might cause concern for the well-being of children
- ✓ Any charges concerning child abuse that are sent for trial by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Other offences may result in an applicant being turned down by the Irish Judo Association depending on the time and nature of the offence e.g. Theft & Fraud offences. All decisions on the suitability of an applicant are a matter for the Irish Judo Association. An Garda Síochána **will not** be involved in such decisions.

Irish Judo Association Garda Vetting Decision Committee (Decision Committee)

The Liaison Person retains the right to convene the Irish Judo Association Garda Vetting Decision Committee to adjudicate on the suitability of an applicant to a position with the Irish Judo Association following a disclosure of the applicant or the Garda Vetting Unit. The Decision Committee will consist of no more than three individuals and will consist of the following position holders within the organisation:

- ✓ Liaison Person
- ✓ Honorary General Secretary
- ✓ President
- ✓ Vice President



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The Liaison Person has the right to disclose information received from the applicant and the Garda Vetting Unit to the Decision Committee, but at all times the identity of the applicant will not be disclosed to the other Decision Committee members by the Liaison Person.

Communication

When the Liaison Person is required to communicate with the applicant for any reason the following protocol will be adhered to:

- ✓ Communication should be by phone or in person if convenient
- ✓ The Liaison Person will verify the person is the applicant
- ✓ No messages will be left
- ✓ No discussion will take place with any other person, spouse or partner
- ✓ The Liaison Person will give an assurance of confidentiality

If the Liaison Person is required to verify disclosed details the applicant will be asked:

- ✓ Is there anything they remember concerning the time of the offence
- ✓ Have they have ever been to court
- ✓ For any relevant information concerning the disclosed information
- ✓ To consider the significance of the disclosure in relation to the position applied for

All responses should be noted by the Liaison Person and held confidentially. If any of the information is disputed the Disputes procedure in this policy (see below) must be followed.

New Personnel (as per IJA Vetting Procedures)

Where the applicant is suitable for the position applied for, this should be communicated to the individual and the person responsible for the recruitment/enrolment – this will be done by letter as well, simply stating the applicant is suitable to work with children and/or vulnerable adults. Where the information disclosed by the Unit and/or self-disclosed by the applicant this deems the individual to be unsuitable they should be informed of such. The applicant should be allowed to withdraw their application.

Existing Personnel (as per IJA Vetting Procedures)

An assessment must be made of the suitability of the individual to hold their present position. This decision will be made on an individual basis, based on the nature of the disclosed information and the initial self-disclosure by the individual. No decision shall be made unless any disclosed information is verified in accordance with the procedure in communicating with the applicant. This verification shall be carried out preferably in the presence of Authorised Signatory. If the individual is deemed not suitable to work with children, they will be afforded the opportunity to withdraw from their current position. Where the individual is deemed suitable for their position this will be communicated to the individual in accordance with the communication procedure and this will be recorded in the vetting file.



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Overseas Police Clearance

If a person seeking vetting clearance has spent a cumulative period of 36 months abroad since the age of 18, then they must seek clearance in each country in which they have resided.

The National Vetting Bureau currently undertakes vetting on addresses in Ireland and Northern Ireland only. An applicant for registration who has lived overseas for a cumulative period of three years (36 months) or more after the age of 18 must provide a copy of police clearance for each country in which they have resided. These clearance certificates must cover the entire period of residence in each country.

Only certified copies of police clearance documentation should be submitted. Applicants should note that uncertified documents and photocopies will not be accepted.

Exceptional circumstances

The IJA reserves the right to seek a sworn declaration where a satisfactory police/criminal records disclosure is not available. Please note that this declaration may be accepted by the IJA if:

- the IJA is aware that police clearance is only obtainable by residents of the country concerned
- the applicant resided in the country for a period of less than six months
- the applicant was travelling through the country and had no fixed address
- the applicant resided in the country more than 10 years ago
- the country is at war or experiencing political upheaval or
- the applicant has provided correspondence demonstrating that police clearance cannot be obtained.

In these circumstances the reason for the Exceptional Circumstance should be notified to the person within the IJA who is responsible for carrying out Garda Vetting. This notification will then be forwarded on the National Executive Committee who will decide by a vote on whether to accept the Exceptional Circumstance. Seeking police clearance documentation from other countries (e.g. UK, USA etc.) are the responsibility of the applicant. Club Liaison Officers need to be aware of delays to issuing IJA Clearance Letters if Overseas Police Clearance is required for their coaches and volunteers.

Data Security

The data submitted by the applicant and any responses from the National Vetting Unit is subject to data security. The Irish Judo Association will only release information concerning the suitability of an individual to a person who needs to know. In the event that an applicant withdraws either their application for a position or from their position, information concerning their suitability for working with children or vulnerable adults will not be released. In accordance with the rules laid down in the GDPR Act of 2018 the Liaison Person on behalf of the Irish Judo Association will:

- ✓ Obtain and process information fairly
- ✓ Keep this information only for one or more specified, explicit and lawful purposes
- ✓ Use and disclose information only in ways compatible with these purposes
- ✓ Keep information safe and secure
- ✓ Keep information accurate, complete and up to date
- ✓ Ensure that any information is adequate, relevant and not excessive
- ✓ Retain information for no longer than is necessary for the purpose or purposes
- ✓ Give a copy of his/her personal information to an individual, on request



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Disputes

Disputing Disclosed Information

The Unit has a dispute mechanism in place in event of an individual contesting the disclosed information. In the case of any disclosure being disputed by the applicant the following procedure will be applied:

- ✓ The exact basis of the dispute will be noted by the Liaison Person on communication with the individual
- ✓ The original 'NVB E Invitation' will be resubmitted to the unit for a recheck - containing a covering report outlining the basis of the dispute as indicated by the applicant

If on examination of the original 'NVB E Invitation' there was an error in the completion of the form this should be rectified by the applicant by completing a new application. The original and the new 'NVB E Invitation' will be submitted together with a request for a recheck.

If following a recheck the applicant still disputes the information, arrangements with the Unit will be made for further identification procedures to be conducted to resolve the dispute. Until all disputes have been settled the individual will not be able to take any position. If the dispute involves existing personnel, it is recommended that supervision is put in place until the dispute resolved.

All decisions on the suitability of an applicant following a recheck are a matter for the Irish Judo Association and An Garda Síochána will not be involved in such decisions.

Disputing the Decision of the Liaison Person

The Liaison Person has a responsibility to observe professional standards and will be cautious to recognise their own values and personal ethics in evaluating the seriousness and the relevance of an offence.

Any dispute concerning the decision of a Liaison Person should be submitted in writing. Advice from 'Children First' Advice and Information Officers from the Child and Family Agency (TULSA) as independent advisors will be taken and this will be communicated to the individual in accordance with the protocol. The outcome of this decision will be final.

Effective

17th September 2018