

SPORTING ENNISTYMON F.C'S CLUB CHILDREN'S OFFICER/S

The appointment of Club Children's Officers is an essential element in the creation of a quality atmosphere in any club. They act as a resource to members with regard to children's issues and also ensure that children have a voice in the running of the club and can freely talk of their experiences.

Government guidelines advise that a children's officer should be appointed by all clubs and this should be done in accordance with recommended selection and recruitment procedures. The appointment of this person should be carried out in consultation with juvenile members and their parent/guardians.

The Club's Children's Officer should :

- Have good communication skills, be approachable and open minded.
- Have good knowledge and be familiar with their Child Welfare and Protection Codes and Guidelines Children First 2011.

- Have an understanding of relevant child welfare/protection legislation.
- Have undertaken a Garda Vetting application.
- Have attended the relevant awareness training on child welfare and protection and availed of Children's Officer training.

The Club's Children's Officer will have the following functions:

- To promote the Code of Ethics & Good Practice.
- To influence policy and practice and to prioritise children's needs.
- To ensure that children know how and whom they can report their concerns to within the club. Information disclosed by a child should be dealt with in accordance with the Department of Health and Children's Guidelines "Children First".
- To encourage the participation of parents/guardians in club activities.

- To co-operate with parents to ensure that each child enjoys his/her participation in football.

- To act as a resource with regard to best practice in children's football.

- To report regularly to the Club Management committee.

- To monitor changes in membership and follow up any unusual dropout, absenteeism or club transfers by children or coach/volunteers.

Club/League Children's Officers do not have the responsibility of investigating or validating child protection concerns within the club and have no counselling or therapeutic role. This responsibility lies with the HSE and Gardai.

Sporting Ennistymon F.C have appointed Eddie Crowe as our Children's Officer and she/he can be contacted at 085 7279769.