

From: **Bernard O'Byrne** <bobyrne@basketballireland.ie>

Date: Thu 1 Apr 2021 at 20:08

Subject: Garda Vetting of Coaches

All,

The full re-opening of our sport is still some time away but there are several things we need to prepare before that. One important matter is the issue of mandatory Garda Vetting and Child Protection.

It had been the intention to introduce mandatory Licencing and Garda Vetting of all coaches last September but the season never started.

So, the intended scenario for the re-opening of our sport is:

1. No person may coach a team in a club affiliated to Basketball Ireland unless he/she has a Coaching licence.
2. The licence is a physical card which will state the personal details and the level of the coaching licence.
3. Coaches should be asked to produce this card before games by referees or, where appropriate, by game commissioners.
4. To attain a coaching licence a person will need-
 - have completed a Sports Ireland certified coaching course
 - to produce evidence of having been garda vetted
 - have completed a child safety course.
5. Clubs should also note that Sport Ireland stipulates that ***“All Coaches, Club Children’s Officers (CCO) and Designated Liaison Persons (DLP) must first complete the 3 hour Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness Workshop. This workshop educates participants on the implementation of best practice in safeguarding the welfare of children involved in sport”.***
6. any person who deals with under 18 aged children must be garda vetted and have completed a child safety course. Not to have these two items done contravenes the Children First Act 2015 and may have serious legal consequences for club officers.

The NABC and individual Area Boards may decide what sanctions they will impose on clubs in their competitions who allow non-licenced coaches to coach teams.

Basketball Ireland retain the right to administer all possible sanctions in all competitions as and when information is acquired or presented to us.

For your information:

- the BI Coaching Officer is Sheena Hubbard
- the BI Compliance Officer is Rory Wall
- the BI Registrar is Daryl Lambe

***Regards,
Bernard***

Bernard J. O’Byrne - 087 7646141

Secretary General / Chief Executive/ National League Commissioner - Basketball Ireland.

FIBA Europe Board Member / President, FIBA Europe Small Nations Commission

Member, FIBA National Federations Development Working Group.



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