



## SUTTON DINGHY CLUB - Garda Vetting Procedure

### Document Version Control & History:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Drafted by</b>	Andrew Johnston	Commodore	March 2011
<b>Reviewed By</b>		General Committee	April 2011

<b>Revision</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Modification or Description</b>
<b>V1</b>	July 2011	General Committee	Approved
<b>V2</b>	June 2013	Commodore	Committee review
<b>V3</b>	June 2024	Commodore	Yearly review

<b>Document Custodian</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
Andrew Johnston	June 2024	Gordan Kelly (Commodore)	Hon. Secretary

Signed on behalf of the General Committee:

Commodore:

Gordan Kelly (June 2024)

## **SUTTON DINGHY CLUB - Garda Vetting Procedure**

### **New Personnel - Recruitment and selection**

- During the recruitment stage (staff, Instructor) or after selection (Club member Committee member) an individual, if they are expected to take on a role where they will have unsupervised access to children, young people or vulnerable adults or will be making decisions regarding the welfare of children will be given a Garda Vetting application form to complete
- The individual will be made aware of this policy, the Clubs vetting procedure and any prosecutions or convictions that may affect the employment position.
- The individual will complete the vetting form and place it in a sealed envelope with their name, address and the position selected or applied for. This is returned to the Club VLO.
- If the applicant is successful through the interview stage
- If the individual is a Club or Committee member the completed form will be processed by Sutton Dinghy Club and submitted to the Irish Sailing.

### **Existing Personnel**

Any individual will be required to be re-vetted on changing their role within Sutton Dinghy Club where they are:

- Moving into a position where they will have unsupervised access to children.
- Moving to a position where they will be making decisions regarding the welfare of children.
- All individuals will undergo re-vetting after 5 (five) years.

### **Completing the Vetting Forms**

- The Garda vetting application form is required to be fully completed; where section does not apply the applicant should indicate as such.
- No time gaps can be left in the dates of residency at the declared addresses.
- The form must be signed and dated by the applicant.
- The Vetting Liaison Officer must confirm the identity of the applicant using either a driving licence (with photograph), a passport or a utility bill showing the correct name and address.
- Any forms not wholly completed will be returned unprocessed by the Irish Sailing - this will hold up the recruitment process.

### **Residency Abroad**

- Any individual resident for less than one year (taken from the date of the initial vetting application) in either Ireland or Northern Ireland will be checked again after 6 months and again one year later (i.e. 3 checks completed in 18 months).
- If a police check has been obtained from the individual's originating country (confirm acceptability with Irish Sailing) Garda vetting will only be required after 6 months and again one year later (i.e. 2 checks plus originating country police check in 18 months).

### **Completed Application Forms**

- On receipt, completed application forms will be checked by the Vetting Liaison Officer for errors or omissions and photocopied.
- For new personnel the information will be verified against that given in an application form or a CV.

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- For existing personnel the Vetting Liaison Officer will verify the information on the Garda vetting form.

### **Return of Information**

- The Irish Sailing will forward completed reports onto the candidate in respect of whom vetting has been requested. The Irish Sailing will inform our Vetting Liaison Officer that the check has been completed and that the report has been sent onto the candidate.
- The Vetting Liaison Officer will then contact the applicant and request to see their disclosure form.
- Each application will be examined by the Vetting Liaison Officer 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 or 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 original application form 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 Garda Central 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 Garda Central Vetting Unit the Vetting Liaison Officer should contact the candidate and request an explanation. The information provided by the candidate should be included when considering their suitability.

Disclosure of certain types of convictions/prosecutions will automatically preclude the applicant from a position working with children. 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 pornography.
- An offence that causes gross bodily harm.
- An offence of kidnapping.
- A series of continuous offending that might cause concern for the well-being of children.

All decisions on the suitability of an applicant are a matter for **Sutton Dinghy Club**. The Irish Sailing and An Garda Síochana will not be involved in such decisions.

### **Communication**

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

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- Communication should be by phone or in person if convenient.
- The Vetting Liaison Officer 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 Vetting Liaison Officer will give an assurance of confidentiality.

### **New Personnel**

Where the Vetting Liaison Officer finds no reason for the applicant not to be offered or recruited to the position, this will be communicated to the individual and the person responsible for the recruitment – this will be done by letter as well, simply stating the applicant is suitable to work with children.

Where the information disclosed by the Garda Central Vetting Unit and/or self disclosed by the applicant means that the individual is unsuitable they should be informed of such. The applicant should be allowed to withdraw their application.

### **Existing Personnel**

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. 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.

### **Disputes**

#### *Disputing Disclosed Information*

In the case of any disclosure being disputed by the applicant they should contact the Irish Sailing and obtain details on the appeals procedure.

#### *Disputing the Decision of the Vetting Liaison Officer*

The VLO 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 an Vetting Liaison Officer should be submitted in writing to the Commodore of Sutton Dinghy Club.

Advice from the Irish Sailing and or 'Children First' Advice and Information Officer from the HSE as an independent advisor may be taken and this will be communicated to the individual in accordance with the protocol. The outcome of this decision will be final.