



ADVICE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS ABOUT TRIAL REQUESTS & SCOUTS

Parents/Guardians should:

- Be familiar with FAI Scouting Regulations.
- Request proof of identity and ensure that all scouts representing clubs outside the Republic of Ireland are registered with the FAI.
- Ensure that all contact is carried out through the player's club secretary. On no account should contact be made directly to a young player. All contacts should be conducted through the player's Club Secretary and his Parents/Guardians.
- Ensure all requests for a player to go on trial must be made to the secretary of the club whom the player is registered with, or was last registered with. This is done by using the FAI Request for Trial Form.
- The Request For Trial Form requires written details regarding:
 - contact numbers and addresses of requesting club
 - travel arrangements
 - accommodation
 - insurance (travel, accident, medical & baggage)
 - supervision
 - details of club Education & Welfare Officer
 - contact details of the nominated person who is taking responsibility for the child's welfare while at the Club.
- Parents/Guardians are strongly advised to maintain regular contact with their child while away. The child should be advised to contact his/her Parents/Guardians if they have any concerns or worries.

When a club outside the Republic of Ireland makes an approach to take a young player on trial the Parents/Guardians are advised to inquire of the following:

- Does the Club have a safeguarding children policy? Ask for a copy!
- Does the Club have clear guidelines for the conduct of its staff?
- Is there a code of conduct for parents and players?
- Have the Club got a complaints procedure? Seek details!
- Does the Club operate Criminal Records Bureau checks (UK) or Garda Vetting?
- Does it seek references as part of its safe recruitment policies for staff and volunteers?
- Does the Club provide support and ongoing training for its staff/volunteers?
- Who is in overall charge of training sessions?
- Who is the Designated Children's Officer or Child Protection Officer (UK)?
- Who is the senior member of the Club's management team overseeing Youth Development?
- At what level are the coaching staff and management team qualified?
- Get to know other parents and check their experiences with them
- Seek advice from your child's own club.

Scholarships

The Football Association of Ireland advises parents to check out any scholarship offers from colleges outside the Republic of Ireland very carefully. Specifically, you need to check the terms of the offer and any financial implications that may be involved. Consideration should also be given to the standard of Degree on offer and if qualifications obtained are widely recognized. It would be advisable to check and compare similar scholarship opportunities available here in Ireland.

Further Assistance

The FAI has a broad range of expertise in the area of player welfare and any queries can be directed to playerwelfare@fai.ie