



# IABA

IRISH ATHLETIC BOXING ASSOCIATION

145 SOUTH CIRCULAR  
ROAD, DUBLIN, IRELAND  
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+353 1 453 3371  
Company Reg. No.: 459881  
iaba.ie

## IABA Safeguarding Report, 2025

11 October, 2025

### **National Committee:**

Jennifer O’Sullivan-Coffey (**Chairperson/Munster CPO**)

Anto Donnelly (**Board of Directors**)

Anna Moore (**Central Council**)

Ronan Kelly (**Dublin CPO**)

Sibheal Greene (**Connacht CPO**)

Margeret Lambe (**Leinster CPO**)

Padraig Laverty (**Antrim/Ulster CPO**)

Stephen Flynn (**SGM IABA/Secretary**)

Firstly, I would like to recognise the work of the Committee, not only in their time in attending meetings, but in their role in policy development, case management, vetting reviews, feedback and support over the past year.

### **Safeguarding Training**

The IABA’s proactive approach to supporting our clubs in best practice through education is evident in the number of Safeguarding Courses delivered both online and in person in 2025 throughout the Association.

To date in 2025, we have delivered 15 Safeguarding 1 basic awareness courses (SG1) online and in person, an additional 5 SG1 courses scheduled for the remainder of the year. There have been 251 coaches and club administrators trained on SG1 – a record for IABA-delivered training in this space. 32 Club Children’s Officers have availed of IABA-delivered Safeguarding 2 courses.

This significant learning provision would not have been delivered without the availability of our trained IABA Safeguarding Tutors. The Committee would like to recognise Bridget Scott and Gabe Cronnelly for their support in delivering training throughout the year.

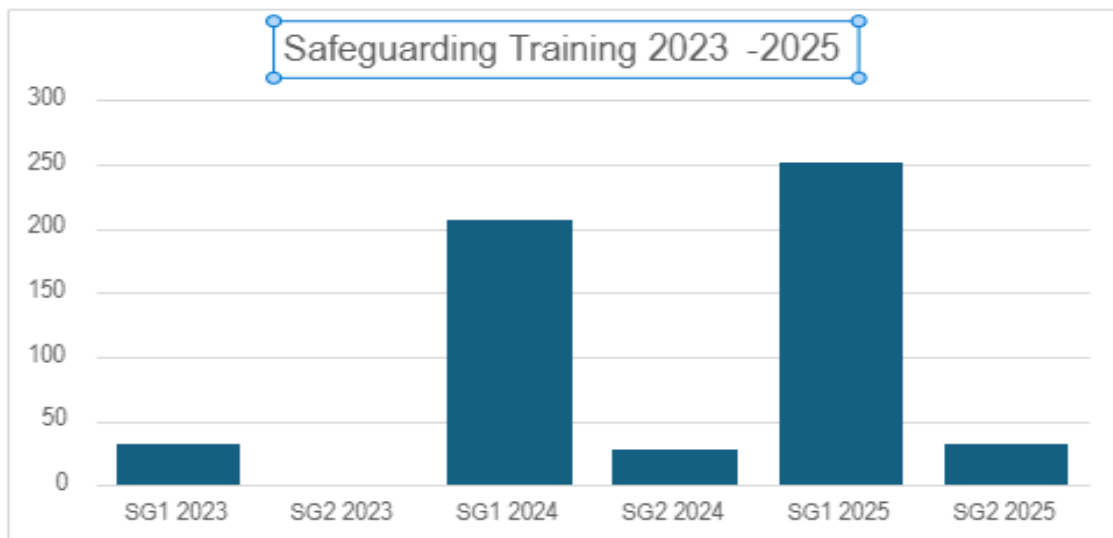


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*\*Data Taken 02/10/2025*

### **Safeguarding/Pre-Affiliation Workshops:**

In preparation for affiliation for the 2025/2026 season, 27 online workshops were held across weekday lunchtimes, evenings and Saturday mornings on the updated member management system to track Garda Vetting, updating coaching qualifications, and include all members for insurance purposes and the practicalities of managing a Safeguarding matter, should it arise at club level. 50% of clubs attended these workshops, which were designed to support clubs in their day-to-day management. I would like to thank all who delivered and made the workshops possible, and all club representatives who took the time to attend.

### **Vetting:**

The upward trend in members applying and completing vetting applications has continued through 2025. Applications have increased by 11% on 2024 in the year-to-date. The Committee thanks all the Club Children's Officers and administrators who process and send applications on behalf of their members. There was a significant increase in the processing of completed applications again this year compared to 2023/2024 with notably fewer incomplete applications or expired invites.

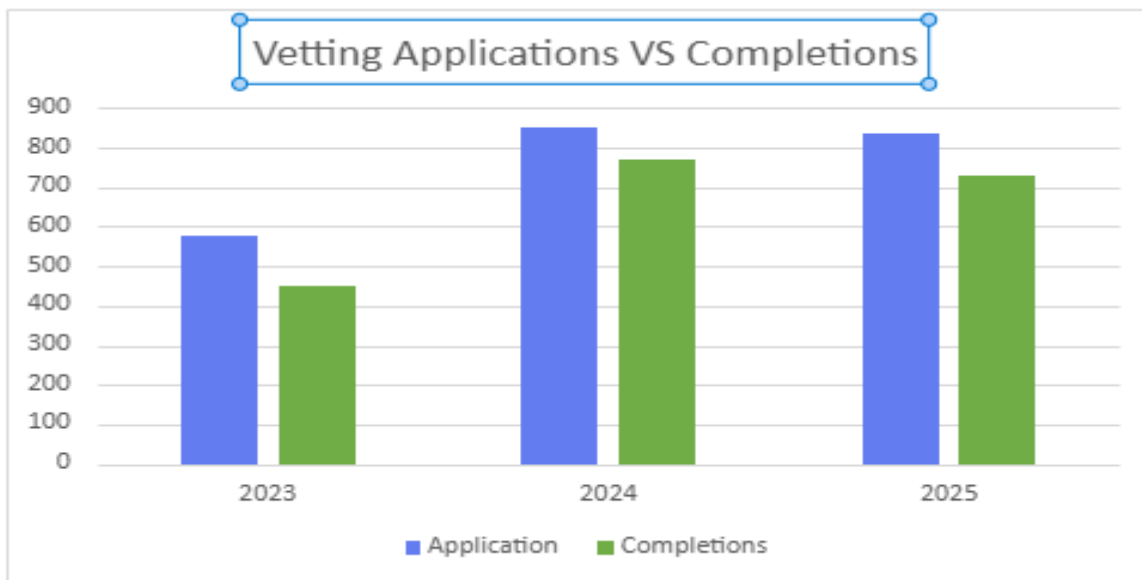


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\*2023 & 2024 full year data, 2025 Data up until 02/10/2025

From a compliance perspective, IABA has successfully completed an Access NI audit - our gratitude to Ulster colleagues who continue to be diligent and ensuring highest standards on processing applications for our members. IABA welcomes and facilitates on-going spot checks and compliance audits from the National Vetting Bureau at random intervals. A full audit on compliance is due in early 2026.

Some new changes have occurred on both platforms in recent months, and a suit of Lunchtime learning will be delivered in Q4 to help support clubs and members adjust to those changes. It highlights greater need with completion of forms and acceptance of the verification documentation on both sides. Greater EU wide checks are now carried out and will increase waiting times by a minimum of 10 days.

### Some other important milestones for mention:

**Review of the Safeguarding Strategic plan 2024-2028:** This is a live document and is reviewed twice annually, in addition to an audit by CPSU in Northern Ireland. We continue to implement the best practices across all 32 counties, and more work will be required on this. The next scheduled review of this document will be November 2025.

**Safeguarding and Policy Review:** In line with best practice, a review of our National Policy and its appendices were conducted by Tulsa's compliance department early in 2025. The feedback was largely positive, particularly in areas of reporting and case management practices. IABA's National Safeguarding Statement is due for review in 2026 and our suite of



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policy documents will be updated at that time, accordingly. The Safeguarding Statement is a living document that requires refreshing every two years and is linked to our funding with Sport NI and Sport Ireland.

**Underage Team Ireland:** 2025 was a very successful year both inside and outside the ring for our international boxers at juvenile level. All training camps and away trips were supervised and delivered to the highest standard. Feedback and continual improvements into our preparation of our Team Managers, coaches, parents/guardians and boxers prior to and post trip is an area we wish to strengthen looking ahead to 2026. We have given additional training to our Team management pool and this has paid dividends in terms of coach and boxer feedback. Our congratulations to all who represented their county in 2025.

**Youth Mental Health First Aid:** IABA added Youth Mental Health First Aid Training added to our suite of club supports in the final quarter of 2024. The training, delivered in partnership with Mental Health First Aid Ireland, is free for all IABA participants and is funded and supported by the HSE and St. John of Gods Services. We delivered two online and one in person course during 2025, with 32 attendees in total. There are plans to host one more session in Quarter 4 of 2025.

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:** We would like to recognise the importance of this work over the past 12 months by our colleague Patrick Adejayan and the number of volunteer members that engaged and assisted in the progression of our 360 EDI policy. A suite of training was delivered over the course of the year on Inclusion, Diversity, Disability Awareness, Autism in Sport, Unconscious Bias and High Five to name just a few of the topics that our membership availed of during the year. We are also thankful to Active Disability Ireland for their guidance on expert input into the training.

## Summary

As we continue to work toward our ambitious goals as set out in our Safeguarding Strategy and within the framework of our 2024-2028 Strategic plan, *In Your Corner*, there are big opportunities for making the sport of boxing a leader in safe sport and inclusivity.

Some strides will be required on updating our governance practices in the sport and technology will play a major part in bring those advancements forward. We look forward to working innovatively with our members on a practical and top-class solution in this space.

One of the big-ticket items the Association has on its agenda for 2026 calendar year is capturing the youth voice in sport. We are aiming to partner with some universities to conduct a research project in early 2026 and then establish a youth forum/ council to inform the



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association on different matters. This is widely best practice across many of the top sports Nationally and Internationally.

I would like to commend the thousands of volunteers who coach, administer and support our members on a daily and weekly basis helping foster young athletes love for boxing and lifelong learning in a child centred environment.

Stephen Flynn

**National Safeguarding Manager**

**On behalf of the National Safeguarding Committee**