

What is Access NI?

AccessNI is a Criminal History Disclosure Service. It supplies criminal history information to organisations that are required by law to consider the suitability of applicants for certain positions or to ensure that they are not barred from working with vulnerable groups.

It has been established by the Northern Ireland Office as a result of the introduction in NI of Part V of the Police Act 1997. It replaces the Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults NI Order (POCVA NI) service that was provided by the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety (DHSSPS).

From the 1st of April 2015 applicants who are required to undergo an AccessNI check can apply on-line. (The on-line system is now the preferred method of submitting AccessNI applications but paper applications may be submitted).

Gymnastics Ireland will submit all AccessNI Disclosure Certificate Applications through the Northern Ireland Sports Forum (NISF) for onwards processing by AccessNI (as an Umbrella Body the NISF is an approved organisation which submits criminal history checks to AccessNI on behalf of other non-registered organisations). Gymnastics Ireland has signed up to a service level agreement with NISF.

Gymnastics Ireland insists that all those involved in gymnastics (at both club level and national level) are appointed via safe recruitment procedures that are supported by Gymnastics Ireland. In supporting and advising the club, Gymnastics Ireland will have the final say over who should be/not be a member of Gymnastics Ireland.

As an affiliated club to Gymnastics Ireland, you must complete AccessNI checks for those individuals in Regulated Activity.

Gymnastics Ireland cannot accept AccessNI certificates that have been obtained through another organisation.

From 10 September 2012 only those working within the new definitions of Regulated Activity are:

- Eligible to obtain an enhanced criminal record check
- **Able to check the barred list held by the Disclosure and Barring Service which provides details of individuals barred from working with vulnerable groups. A check of the barred lists should only be undertaken if the position being applied for is regarded as being in 'regulated activity'.**

N.B. Those who were working within the previous definitions of Regulated or Controlled Activity are still;

- Eligible for an Enhanced Disclosure but unable to check whether the applicant is on the Barred List

An organisation who knowingly allows a barred person to work in regulated activity will be breaking the law.