

# THE NEXT STEP . . .

Footballing talent can bring untold happiness for a player and their family. Being scouted by a club is a great achievement for any player and doesn't happen to everyone.

Natural enthusiasm and excitement will want an academy contract signed at the first possible opportunity when the offer finally arrives. However, getting the best out of the contract negotiations will be imperative for all players and parents involved.

At Tughans Solicitors, we appreciate that these can be difficult times and that parents face a number of difficult decisions. In light of this, we have established a Sports Law service to assist parents and players as they face their first contract negotiations.

As soon as a club makes its offer, Tughans' Sports Law team can step in and act on your behalf. This will provide you with the peace of mind that you have an established law firm acting in your interest and that there will be distance between the club and your son during the negotiation process.

Tughans has no affiliation to any club or to any agent and will ensure that your son receives the best advice for his own particular circumstances every time. The service will be of no cost to the player and will involve reviewing the academy contract and advising the player and his parents on each of the terms. If necessary, Tughans can then negotiate the terms on the player's behalf to ensure that they receive the best deal possible.

As Northern Ireland's largest law firm, Tughans has the experience and the expertise to provide you with the right advice at the right time. With over 100 years of history, Tughans is well regarded as a law firm that puts clients at the heart of everything we do. We look forward to working with you in the future.





## **John Turley, Solicitor**

Graduated from Queens University, Belfast with a 2:1 in 2003 and from the Institute of Professional Legal Studies in 2005. John joined Tughans Solicitors in 2007.

John's playing history includes representing County Down at the 1997 Milk Cup and selection for the Milk Cup County Select Squad which travelled to Holland following the tournament. He played his youth football at Lisburn Youth and Glentoran F.C. and was selected for Northern Ireland U-18 Schoolboys when he helped them to retain the Centenary Shield in 1999. He later travelled on a scholarship to the United States of America where he represented University of Rio Grande, Ohio in the NAIA Mid-East Conference.



## **Gareth McCay, Solicitor**

Graduated from Queens University Belfast with a 2:1 and obtained his Legal Practice Certificate from Manchester Metropolitan University in 2006. Gareth, who is qualified to practice in Northern Ireland and in England, joined Tughans Solicitors in 2008 and is registered as a Football Association Lawyer.

Gareth played domestically with Foyle Harps and Institute F.C. and as a youth spent time with Peterborough United and Sheffield Wednesday before retiring due to a serious knee injury aged 17. He also represented Northern Ireland at youth level in games against Republic of Ireland and in the Triangular Tournament against Scotland and Wales. He was part of the St Columb's College team which retained the Northern Ireland schools cup for the third successive year in 2000.



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