



SCiG Policy

THE CHILDREN IN GOLF SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

PURPOSE

The Children in Golf Strategy Group (CiG) is committed to ensuring that all children (defined as any young person under the age of 18), have a fun, safe and positive experience when playing golf. Each partner of CiG recognises its responsibilities to safeguard children's welfare by protecting them from all forms of abuse and bullying.

All organisations that provide opportunities for young golfers should apply the policies and procedures of Children in Golf to everyone, e.g. County Unions, County Associations, clubs, members, coaches, PGA Golf Professionals, staff, volunteers and parents and should do so to the highest possible standards.

The policy and supporting procedures set out a framework to fulfil golf's commitment to good practice and the protection of children in its care.

KEY PRINCIPLES

- The welfare of children is paramount
- All children regardless of age, gender, racial origin, religious belief, sexual identity and any disability have a right to enjoy sport free from all forms of abuse or poor practice
- All suspicions and allegations will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All children have the right to be safe
- All children have the right to be treated with dignity and respect
- National governing bodies, affiliated County Unions, County Associations and golf clubs are encouraged to work in partnership with children, their parents and external organisations firstly, to safeguard the welfare of children participating in golf, and, secondly, to protect staff and volunteers working in golf
- Golf recognises the authority of the statutory agencies and is committed to complying with Local Safeguarding Children Board Guidelines (LSCB) and any documentation which supersedes these

OBJECTIVES

The Children in Golf Strategy Group Child Protection Policy and associated recommended procedures aim to:

- provide children with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of affiliated County Unions, County Associations and golf clubs, and to ensure that they enjoy their experience of the sport
- reassure parents that their children will receive the best practicable care whilst participating in golfing activities
- support adults (staff, volunteers, PGA Professionals, coaches, referees and members) to understand their roles and responsibilities with regard to the Duty of Care and protection of children
- provide support to staff and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues and to fulfil their role effectively
- encourage all affiliated County Unions, County Associations and golf clubs to adopt the Children in Golf Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures and any related policies

RESPONSIBILITIES & IMPLEMENTATION

The Children in Golf Strategy Group will seek to promote the principles of safeguarding children by:

- reviewing the policy and procedures at least every three years or whenever there is a major change in legislation applicable to any of the organisations within Children in Golf
- providing advice and support to affiliated clubs, County Unions, County Associations and individuals working within these organisations through education and training and the guidance contained in the *Guidelines for Safeguarding Children in Golf (CiG)*
- ensuring that the practices of the member organisations are consistent with good practice in safeguarding children
- assisting organisations which refer suspected cases of abuse or poor practice by making appropriate recommendations and providing advice and support with the assistance of the CiG Case Management Group

The Children in Golf Strategy Group Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and the recommendations contained in *Guidelines for Safeguarding Children in Golf (CiG)* are based on the above principles, UK and international legislation and government guidance and take the following into consideration:

- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- The Data Protection Act 1994 & 1998
- The Police Act 1997
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Protection of Children Act 1999
- Caring for the young and vulnerable - Home Office Guidance for preventing the abuse of trust 1999
- The Criminal and Court Services Act 2000
- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused 2005
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010)
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Any subsequent legislation relating to child protection would implicitly be incorporated into this document