



BALLYCLARE GOLF CLUB

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The United Kingdom agreed to be bound by the Convention in 1991 which lists a number of statements setting out the rights of children and young people up to the age of 18, no matter where they live or what their circumstances. In the context of this policy, the most important of these is the right to protection from violence and harmful treatment. The Convention provides “that children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence; they must be kept safe from harm; and they must be given proper care by those looking after them (Article 19)”. Moreover Article 3 provides that “when adults or organisations make decisions which affect children, they must always think first about what would be best for the child”. Ballyclare Golf Club wishes to safeguard the welfare of all members and volunteer helpers involved with club activities. It is the responsibility of all connected with Ballyclare Golf Club to help prevent all types of abuse of children and young people.

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 came into operation on the 4th November, 1996, the central thrust being that the welfare of the child must be the paramount consideration, and it is this essential principle which underpins the following policy.

Rationale

The key principle is that the responsibility for protecting children remains with adults and therefore the arrangements for the personal safety of all juvenile and junior members of the club should be such that there is no possibility of this responsibility being transferred to the children themselves.

Aims of Juvenile and Junior Sections

To encourage an interest in golf in juvenile and junior members

To develop an interest in competitive golf and thereby recognise and understand the importance of honesty.

To recognise the need for rules of golf and the need for a handicap system

To inform juvenile and junior members about people and professional agencies who can help them.

To enhance the self-esteem, self confidence and assertiveness of juvenile and junior members of the club.

To respect differences in society e.g. social, cultural etc.

To develop awareness of inappropriate behaviour in people.

Aims of Child Protection Policy

To provide a safe environment for children and young people.

To ensure the welfare of the child is of paramount importance in decisions likely to affect them.

To provide effective procedures for the protection of children whilst on club premises or in the care of club members.

PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICES

Adults involved with children should:

Set a good example of good behaviour and avoid drinking and using foul language when in contact with children.

Set realistic targets for children.

Know the rules and encourage good etiquette and correct sporting behaviour.

Encourage children and avoid embarrassing them or shouting at them.

When involved with a group of boys and girls, male and female adults should be present.

Situations to avoid

Adults should avoid all situations that may lead to allegations of abuse. Adults should also avoid all situations that may place children in any danger or exposure to fear. These could include the following:

Being left alone with children especially in the changing rooms or toilets.

Trips involving overnight stays require written parental consent. Adults should not enter the bedrooms of children unless accompanied by another adult.

On overnight trips do not share rooms with children.

Avoid unnecessary physical contact, including minimum contact during coaching.

Avoid spending excessive time alone with a child e.g. always try to have two children in your car instead of only one.

Avoid horseplay, using suggestive remarks and inappropriate language.

Do not allow children to use unacceptable language.

Do not let an allegation go unchallenged, no matter how frivolous.

Do not make any sexually suggestive comments to or within earshot of a child.

Never restrain a child/young person unless the restraint is to:

- (a) prevent physical injury of the child/other children/others/yourself;
- (b) prevent damage to any property;
- (c) prevent the commission of a criminal offence.

In all circumstances physical restraint must be appropriate and reasonable, otherwise your action can be deemed as assault.

How to react if a situation occurs

The following procedure is strongly recommended as the way to react if a situation arises that is linked to any type of abuse that involves children or young people.

Listen to them – a child will often be confused and frightened and feel vulnerable.

Reassure them that they are correct to speak about it and they are not to blame.

You must inform the designated officer.

Do not interrupt them and allow them to speak freely.

A member who suspects that a child has been abused is bound to follow the above procedures which have been adapted from the Children (NI) Order 1995. Confidentiality must be offered to either a staff member or a child in this situation.

Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Golf for Young People

Ballyclare Golf Club has also adopted the principles for child protection as defined in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Golf for Young People which has been compiled by the Golfing Union of Ireland, the Irish Ladies' Golf Union and the Professional Golfers Association (Irish Region). This document is available for inspection in the Clubs General Office or can be viewed on the club web site www.ballyclaregolfclub.net or at www.juniorgolfireland.com .

Confidentiality is vital

There is always the possibility of a mistake or false allegation.

You may well need counselling, do not act alone, share the worry and seek advice or help in confidence with either the Honorary Secretary, Secretary Manager or Child Protection Panel.

Members of the Child Protection Panel for 2007 are:

Captain	R Thompson
Vice Captain	J Crooks
Juvenile Convenor	T Dunlop
Professional	C Lyttle
Ladies Representative	M Baird

Members of the Child Protection Panel may be subject to change at certain times i.e. change of Captain and/or Vice Captain. Up to date information can be obtained from the Clubs General Office.

Approved by Council of Ballyclare Golf Club.