

SOMERLEY PARK GOLF CLUB

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Somerley Park Golf Club (SPGC) has considered its responsibilities to the children participating in golf at our premises and within our club very carefully and has produced the following Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and underpinning procedures in order to set out the standards we wish to uphold in providing activities for children and safeguarding the welfare of children in our care.

SPGC affiliates to England Golf. The Club recognises the policies of this Governing Body, as set out in the Guidelines for Safeguarding Children in Golf.

Policy Statement

SPGC acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard the welfare of all children involved in golf within the club. All children have a right to protection, and have their particular needs taken into account.

SPGC will therefore endeavour to ensure the safety and protection of all children involved with the club through the Child Protection Guidelines adopted by the Management Committee in this endeavour.

Policy Aims

- To provide children with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of the Club and also help them to enjoy their experience of the sport.
- To reassure parents that their children will receive the best practicable care possible whilst participating in activities within the club
- To provide support to staff and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues and to fulfil their role effectively.

Key Principles

- The welfare of children is paramount.
- A child is defined by law in England and Wales as a person under the age of 18 years.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, race, religion or belief or sexual orientation have the right to protection from abuse.
- All concerns and allegations of abuse and poor practice 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
- SPGC will work with children, their parents/carers and external organisations to safeguard the welfare of children participating in golf.
- We recognise the authority of the statutory agencies and are committed to complying with Local Safeguarding Children Board Guidelines (LSCB), Working Together under the Children Act 2004, and any legislation and statutory guidance which supersedes these.
- SPGC is committed to work with England Golf to continually improve and promote safeguarding initiatives across the sport.

- All staff volunteers and members have a responsibility to report concerns to the Club Welfare Officer.

Objectives

The overall aim of the policy is to ensure that everyone participating in the sport of golf does so in a safe environment that supports children and young people to meet their potential.

SPGC aims to work with golf bodies to:

- Provide a safe environment for children and young people participating in golfing activities and try to ensure that they enjoy their experience.
- Ensure robust systems are in place to manage any concerns or allegations
- Support adults (staff, volunteers, coaches, PGA Professionals, members and visitors) to understand their roles and responsibility with regard to their duty of care and protection of children.
- Provide appropriate level of training, support and resources for staff, volunteers and coaches to make informed and confident responses to specific safeguarding issues and fulfil their role effectively.
- Ensure that children and their parents/carers are informed and consulted and, where appropriate, fully involved in decisions that affect them.
- Ensure that everyone involved in a role with children have been through appropriate pre-recruitment checks.

Responsibilities and Implementation

- SPGC Child Protection Policy will be available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers and participants.
- The Policy will be reviewed every three years or whenever there is a major change in legislation. Guidance from golf's governing bodies will be sought as part of the review process.
- The Management Committee has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including giving guidance on appropriate recruitment procedures to assess the suitability of volunteers and staff working with children and vulnerable groups.
- The Club Welfare Officer has responsibility for responding to concerns and any allegations about the behaviour of adults and ensures that all staff, volunteers, parents and participants, including children, are aware of these procedures.
- Directing staff, volunteers and coaches to appropriate safeguarding training and learning opportunities, where this is appropriate to their role.