

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

HARROGATE GC (HGC) has considered its responsibilities to the children participating in golf very carefully, and therefore has produced the following safeguarding and child protection policy in order to set out the standards we wish to uphold in running activities for children and in safeguarding the welfare of children in our care.

The HARROGATE GC recognises the policies of the National Governing bodies, as set in out in the “Guidelines for Safeguarding Children in Golf”. The policy and supporting procedures set out a framework to fulfil our commitment to good practice and the protection of children in our care.

PRINCIPLES

- The welfare of children is paramount
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, ethnic origin and religious beliefs have the right to protection from abuse
- All suspicions 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
- The HARROGATE GC will 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
- We recognise the authority of the statutory agencies and are committed to complying with Local Safeguarding Children Board Guidelines (LSCB) and any documentation which supersedes these.

OBJECTIVES

The HARROGATE GC aim to:

- Provide a safe environment for children participating in golfing activities within the county and ensure that they enjoy the experience.
- Reassure parents that their children will receive the best care possible whilst participating in club activities..
- Support adults (staff, volunteers, PGA Professionals, coaches and members) to understand their roles and responsibilities with regard to the Duty of Care and protection of children.
- Provide support to staff, volunteers & coaches to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues and to fulfill their role effectively
- To adopt the Children in Golf Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures and any related policies where appropriate.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

The HARROGATE GC and partner organisations will seek to promote the principles of safeguarding children by:

- Reviewing the policy and procedures every three years or whenever there is a major change in legislation. Guidance from golf's governing bodies & Children in Golf Strategy Group will be sought as part of the review process.
- Conducting a risk assessment of county activities with regard to safeguarding and take appropriate action to address the identified issues within suitable timescales.
- Using appropriate recruitment procedures to assess the suitability of county volunteers and staff working with children, in line with guidance from Children in Golf.
- Following governing body procedures to report concerns and allegations about the welfare of children or the behaviour of adults and ensure that all staff, volunteers, parents and children are aware of these procedures.
- Directing club staff, volunteers & coaches to appropriate safeguarding training, where this is appropriate to their role.

The HARROGATE GC policy and procedures are based on the above principles and 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
- The Criminal and Court Services Act 2000
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Caring for the young and vulnerable – Home Office Guidance 1999
- What to do if you are worried a child is being abused 2005
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006
- Any subsequent legislation relating to child protection would implicitly be incorporated into this document

In recognition of the Children in Golf 'Guidelines for Safeguarding Children in Golf' this document is intended to support the safeguarding and child protection policy statement with a series of procedures for HARROGATE GC.