



The Role of Girton Golf Club Welfare Officer – Members Guide

Over the past few years there have been too many reports of children and young people in sport settings being abused, physically and mentally. To a lesser extent, but equally important, adults with disabilities or suffering in other ways have not escaped such behaviours. With this in mind, England Golf has put in place a robust system of safeguarding through 'Safe Golf Accreditation' to address this issue and hopefully prevent it happening in our sport in the future.

England Golf has now made 'Safe Golf Accreditation' mandatory for all clubs if they are to operate within the World Handicapping System which includes the requirement to have an appointed and trained Club Welfare Officer.

The role of Welfare Officer is not a new one. The main difference now is that safeguarding is made the responsibility of all of us within the golf club. The Welfare Officer though is expected to raise awareness and lead this initiative.

We all want our Junior Section to thrive, it is so good to see young people out on the course and it is also essential for the survival of our sport. It is therefore vital that we make our club both a welcoming and safe place for them to develop their skills and to make excellent progress in the game.

England Golf has provided a short guide that I have included below. Please take the time to read it and if you have any questions here are my contact details:

Phone: 07849 608185

Email: welfaregirton@gmail.com

Best wishes,

Sarah Pugh

(Girton Golf Club Welfare Officer)

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk

A Short Guide for Club Members – Girton Golf Club

Girton Golf Club is committed to ensure that the sport of golf is one within which children and young people involved can thrive and flourish in a safe environment and that all children, young people and adults at risk have a fun, safe and positive experience when playing golf.

Girton Golf Club is an affiliated member of England Golf and follows the England Golf Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.

You might be thinking “**What has safeguarding got to do with me?**”

Government guidance makes it clear that ‘Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility’.

Anyone who has a negative experience of sport at a young age is less likely to become a regular long-term participant. It’s important for the future of your club and the sport as a whole that children and young people have an enjoyable experience.

All club members have a part to play in making that happen.

All adults should contribute to the club meeting its overall duty of care, be aware of our club’s safeguarding policy, and know what to do if they are concerned about a young person.

Girton Golf Club asks its members to

- **Familiarise themselves with Girton Golf Club Safeguarding Policies.**

Full copies of the Girton Golf Club Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedures and the Adults Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

are available on our website www.girtongolf.co.uk

- 1. In particular familiarise yourself with the Girton Golf Club Codes of Conduct**

Adults should always be aware that age related differences exist and conduct themselves in a manner that both recognises this and prioritises the welfare of children and young people.

- 2. Anti-Bullying Policy**

Girton Golf Club believes that every effort must be made to eradicate bullying in all its forms. The Club will not tolerate bullying in any of its forms during club matches, competitions, coaching or at any other time while at the club.

- 3. Transport Policy**

The club believes it is primarily the responsibility of parents/carers to transport their child/children to and from events.

4. Changing Room Policy

The changing rooms are used by all members & visitors. Adults must avoid changing or showering at the same time as children but parents will be made aware that with limited changing room space there will be occasions when adults and children may need to share the facilities. Where a parent/carer does not consent to their child accessing the changing rooms, it is their responsibility to either supervise the child while in the changing rooms or ensure that they do not use them.

5. Photography, Videoing and the use of Social Media Policies

Think very carefully before contacting a young person via mobile phone, e-mail or social media.

Do not accept children as contacts on social networking sites if you hold a position of trust with children/young people.

In general stick to group communications, copy the communication to a parent and only communicate about organisational matters.

What should I do if I'm concerned about a child or young person?

A concern may involve the behaviour of an adult towards a child at the club, or something that has happened to the child outside the club.

Children and young people may confide in adults they trust, in a place where they feel comfortable.

An allegation may range from verbal bullying, to inappropriate contact online, to neglect or emotional abuse, to physical or sexual abuse.

If you are concerned about a child, it is not your responsibility to investigate further, but it is your responsibility to act on your concerns and share them.

Pass the information to Girton Golf Club Welfare Officer who will follow the club's Safeguarding procedures.

Name: Sarah Pugh

Email Address: welfaregirton@gmail.com

Telephone Number: 07849 608185

If you believe the child is at immediate risk of harm, call the Police.

Other useful contacts:

NSPCC 24-hour helpline Tel: 0808 800 5000 | England Golf Lead Safeguarding Officer 01526 351824