

OXFORDSHIRE LADIES' COUNTY GOLF ASSOCIATION

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

The Oxfordshire Ladies' County Golf Association (OLCGA) has considered its responsibilities to the children participating in golf very carefully, and has produced the following Child Protection Policy and accompanying procedures in order to set out the standards we wish to uphold in providing activities for children and in safeguarding the welfare of children in our care.

The procedures are based on the Children in Golf (CiG) recommendations contained in their publication "Guidelines for Safeguarding Children in Golf", a copy of which can either be downloaded from the CiG website (www.childreningolf.org.uk) or purchased from the English Golf Union website (www.englishgolfunion.org).

OLCGA is affiliated to the English Women's Golf Association (EWGA), which is a member of the CiG Strategy Group. All professional coaching staff involved in the coaching of children in our care are members of the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA). OLCGA recognises the policies of these National Governing Bodies (NGB) as set out in the CiG guidelines.

1 Policy Statement

OLCGA acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard the welfare of all children (defined as those under 18) involved in golf activities organised by the Association. All children have a right to protection, and have their particular needs taken into account. OLCGA will therefore endeavour to ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in County golf activities through the Child Protection guidelines adopted by the County Executive Committee. It is the responsibility of all adults within OLCGA to assist the County Executive Committee in achieving this aim.

2 Policy Aims

The OLCGA Child Protection Policy and associated procedures aims to:

- Provide children with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of OLCGA and also help them enjoy their experience of the sport.
- Reassure parents that their children will receive the best care possible whilst participating in activities organised by OLCGA.
- Provide support to members and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues and to fulfil their role effectively.

3 Principles

OLCGA is committed to the following:

- 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 members and volunteers working in golf have a responsibility to report concerns to the County Welfare Officer.
- All adults involved in County golf activities (e.g., volunteers, coaches, referees, parents, members) will be supported to understand their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care and protection of children and young people.
- Individuals will receive support through education and training to be aware of and understand best practice and how to manage any welfare or child protection issues that may come to light.
- OLCGA will work in partnership with parents to review and implement child protection and welfare procedures.

4 Responsibilities and Communication

- The OLCGA Child Protection Policy will be available to all members, parents, volunteers and participants.
- The Policy and Procedures will be reviewed every three years by the County Executive Committee, and amended as appropriate. Guidance from golf's governing bodies will be sought as part of the review process.
- The County Executive Committee has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including taking any appropriate disciplinary action necessary.
- The County Welfare Officer has responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns or child protection incidents, passing information to the English Women's Golf Association (EWGA) Lead Child Protection Officer (CPO), and any external agencies that it is appropriate to involve, and informing the appropriate County personnel.
- Parents have a responsibility to work together with OLCGA in implementing procedures and providing their children with the necessary information to safeguard themselves.

