Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

FOREWORD FROM THE CEO OF ENGLAND GOLF

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do at England Golf. Our sport thrives when every individual—whether a player, coach, volunteer, or spectator feels safe, respected, and supported. This is not just a policy; it is a commitment that defines who we are as an organisation.

Golf is a game built on integrity, and that same principle must guide how we protect those involved in our sport. Safeguarding is not the responsibility of a single team or department—it is everyone's responsibility. Each of us has a role to play in creating an environment where people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy golf free from harm.

I want to make it clear that safeguarding is non-negotiable. We will continue to invest in training, resources, and support to ensure best practice across our clubs and communities. But policies alone cannot achieve this; it requires vigilance, empathy, and action from all of us.

Together, we can uphold the highest standards of safety and wellbeing. Thank you for joining us in making golf a sport where trust and respect are as important as skill and competition.

Jeremy Tomlinson

Group Chief Executive Officer
England Golf

1. INTRODUCTION

England Golf is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people involved in golf. We are committed to creating a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment, and an open, listening culture where concerns can be raised without fear of retribution. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility—staff, volunteers, coaches, participants, and visitors—regardless of role. We accept our responsibility for safeguarding children at all levels of our sport, in line with UK legislation and sector best practice.

Organisations and individuals working with children should follow relevant statutory guidance unless there is a good reason not to. As a condition of England Golf affiliation, clubs, counties and facilities which affiliate to England Golf are required to adopt and implement safeguarding policies and procedures that are consistent with this policy and the England Golf Safeguarding Regulations.

2. SCOPE

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. This policy applies to everyone involved in England Golf activity, including staff, volunteers, PGA Professionals, players, carers, and visitors. A child is anyone under the age of 18 and the welfare of the child is paramount. The policy aligns with UK legislation including the Children Act 1989 and 2004, UK GDPR, and Equality Act 2010 as well as the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children and England Golf's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, and we therefore highly recommend that clubs and facilities which affiliate to England Golf adopt this policy for all of their activities too.

3. OUR PRINCIPLES

We adhere to the following principles:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- A child is anyone under the age of 18.
- All children have the right to be safe, treated with dignity and respect, and protected from abuse and neglect.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- Concerns and allegations will be taken seriously, recorded and acted upon promptly.
- England Golf will work in partnership with statutory agencies and comply with local safeguarding arrangements in England.
- Clubs, counties, and other golf bodies owe a legal duty of care to children on their premises or engaged in their activities.

4. OUR OBJECTIVES

We strive to:

1. Provide a safe environment for all children and young people.
2. Ensure robust systems are in place to manage safeguarding concerns or allegations.
3. Support everyone engaged in England Golf activities to understand their safeguarding responsibilities and duty of care.
4. Deliver safeguarding training and resources to staff, volunteers, and coaches.
5. Ensure all individuals working with children and young people have undergone robust recruitment checks.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Specific responsibilities include:

All staff, volunteers, coaches and officials

- Know this policy and the linked procedures and act in line with them.
- Recognise, respond, record, and report concerns promptly.
- Maintain professional boundaries and follow Codes of Conduct.

Club/County Safeguarding and Welfare Officers and Event Safeguarding/Welfare Leads (where applicable)

- Provide advice and act as the first point of contact for concerns.
- Ensure concerns are recorded and escalated in line with procedures.
- Support safer recruitment checks and training compliance locally.

England Golf Safeguarding Team

- Provide safeguarding advice and case management support.
- Liaise with statutory agencies as required.
- Maintain oversight, learning and quality assurance across the sport.

6. RECOGNISING AND PREVENTING HARM

Safeguarding includes preventing harm and creating conditions where abuse is less likely to occur. England Golf promotes prevention through safer recruitment, clear codes of conduct, training, safe environments (including online), and a culture where concerns are raised early.

7. CODES OF CONDUCT AND PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES

Everyone involved in golf must follow England Golf Codes of Conduct. This includes:

- Treating children with respect; avoiding favouritism and discriminatory behaviour.
- Maintaining appropriate language and behaviour; no humiliation, shouting or intimidation.
- Avoiding one-to-one situations where possible and following supervision guidance.
- Using appropriate methods of communication with children and maintaining boundaries online.
- Complying with rules on photography/filming and the use of mobile phones in changing areas.

8. REPORTING AND RESPONDING TO CONCERNS ("THE 4 R'S")

It is not the role of staff members or volunteers to investigate safeguarding concerns. Everyone must follow the 4 R's:

- **Recognise** – notice signs, disclosures or poor practice and take them seriously.
- **Respond** – listen, reassure, and do not promise confidentiality.
- **Record** – write down the facts as soon as possible (date/time, who, what, where).
- **Report** – share promptly with the Safeguarding & Welfare Officer/Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or England Golf Safeguarding Team. In an emergency call 999.

Immediate risk / emergency

- If a child is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical attention, call 999 immediately and then inform the relevant Safeguarding & Welfare Officer/DSL and England Golf Safeguarding Team as soon as it is safe to do so.

Allegations about people in a position of trust

- Where a concern relates to the conduct of a person in a position of trust, England Golf will follow appropriate safeguarding and disciplinary procedures and refer to statutory agencies as required. For purposes of this policy, 'position of trust' refers to certain roles and settings where an adult has regular and direct contact with children.

9. REPORTING & RESPONSE FLOWCHART

1. Concern Raised →

2. Club/County Safeguarding & Welfare Officer →

3. England Golf Safeguarding Team →

4. Case Management Processes →

5. Outcome & Feedback

10. INFORMATION SHARING AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Safeguarding information will be handled sensitively and shared on a need-to-know basis to protect children and support appropriate action. Records will be stored securely in line with data protection requirements.

11. SAFER RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND SUPPORT

England Golf promotes safer recruitment and suitability processes for roles working with children. This includes role descriptions, references, appropriate checks (including DBS eligibility where relevant), induction, and safeguarding training proportionate to the role. England Golf provides guidance and resources to support clubs and counties to implement these requirements.

12. COMMUNICATION, PARTICIPATION AND LISTENING

England Golf supports a listening culture and encourages the views of children and parents/carers to be proactively sought and acted upon. Safeguarding information, reporting routes and key contacts should be easy to find and accessible.

13. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

England Golf will promote implementation of this policy through training, guidance, communication and support to clubs and counties. We will monitor safeguarding practice through case oversight, learning from concerns/incidents, and review of training and compliance information where appropriate.

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years, or sooner in response to significant changes in legislation, statutory guidance or learning.

14. RELEVANT POLICIES

This policy should be read in conjunction with all England Golf Safeguarding Policies, Procedure and Guidance, in addition to relevant Codes of Conduct, Safer Recruitment Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy.

15. APPLICATION IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Where an affiliated organisation is established outside England, references in this policy to legislation, statutory guidance, public authorities or safeguarding processes specific to England shall be read as references to

the applicable legal and regulatory framework of the jurisdiction in which that organisation operates.

Nothing in this document alters the safeguarding standards, responsibilities or expectations set out in this policy. It is intended solely to recognise that affiliated organisations may operate under different legal frameworks while maintaining the safeguarding standards required by England Golf.

England Golf may publish supplementary jurisdiction-specific guidance where this is considered necessary.

15. CONTACT FOR SAFEGUARDING

England Golf Safeguarding Team
Tel: 01526 351856
Email: safeguarding@englandgolf.org

16. FURTHER INFORMATION

https://www.nspcc.org.uk
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding
https://www.englandgolf.org/safeguarding

APPENDIX A – WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD (QUICK GUIDE)

- If a child is at immediate risk: call 999.
- If not thought to be at immediate risk: tell the Safeguarding & Welfare Officer/DSL as soon as possible.
- Record what you saw/heard and keep it factual.

Do not investigate or promise confidentiality.

Document title	England Golf Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy
Version	V1
Policy owner	Helen Jones – Lead Safeguarding Officer
Approved by	Governance Committee
Date approved	7th May 2026
Review date	April 2029
Applies to	England (all England Golf activities, events and affiliated environments where England Golf has responsibility or influence).