

Howth Golf Club

Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1

Howth Golf Club provides various golfing activities and opportunities for young people through participation in club and regional events.

- **Name:** Howth Golf Club
- **Sport:** Golf
- **Location:** Carrickbrack Road, Sutton North, Dublin 13, D13 F3C1

Section 2

Howth Golf Club is committed to safeguarding children, guided by this Safeguarding Policy. Our employees and volunteers working with young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for them to grow and develop in golf by adhering to the following principles:

- **Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in golf.
- **Needs of the child** - All junior golf experiences should be guided by what is best for children. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of young people.
- **Integrity in relationships** - Adults interacting with children in golf are in a position of trust and influence and must never abuse this position of trust. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.
- **Fair Play** - All junior golf should be conducted in the context of fair play. Howth Golf Club will promote fair play, respect, positive ethics, integrity and safety throughout the organisation.
- **Quality atmosphere & ethos** - Junior golf should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging environment.
- **Competition** - This is an essential element of the game and should be encouraged in an age appropriate manner. A balanced approach to competition can make a significant contribution to the development of children, while at the same time providing fun, enjoyment and satisfaction. Competitive demands are often placed on children who are too young, which results in excessive levels of pressure being brought to bear on them. Golf leaders should aim to put the welfare of young people first and competitive success second.
- **Equality** - All children should be valued for who they are and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, political persuasion or social and ethnic background.

Section 3

Risk Assessment

Howth Golf Club's Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm and the likelihood of such occurring. It includes the required policy, guidance and documents required to help prevent and alleviate these risks.

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
Coaching Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of coaching qualification ➤ Supervision issues ➤ Unauthorised photography & recording activities ➤ Behavioural issues ➤ Lack of gender balance amongst coaches ➤ No guidance for travelling & away trips ➤ Risk of harm or sexual abuse of a child by a volunteer/member of staff while away on an overnight trip ➤ Lack of adherence to procedures in Safeguarding Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coach Education policy/Recruitment policy ➤ Supervision policy/Coach Education policy ➤ Photography & Use of Images policy ➤ Code of Conduct/Safeguarding 1/Complaints & Disciplinary policy ➤ Supervision policy ➤ Travel/Away Trip policy / Child Safeguarding Training ➤ Travel/Away Trip policy, Code of Conduct for golf leaders and parents/supervision/recruitment policy ➤ Safeguarding Policy /Recruitment Policy/Code of Conduct/ Complaints & Disciplinary policy
Complaints & Discipline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of awareness of a Complaints and Disciplinary policy. ➤ Difficulty in raising an issue by child and/or parent ➤ Complaints not being dealt with seriously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure/policy / Communications Procedure. ➤ Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure/policy / Communications Procedure. ➤ Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure/policy
Reporting Procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of knowledge of organisational and statutory reporting procedures ➤ No DLP appointed ➤ Concerns of abuse or harm not reported ➤ Not clear who young people should talk to or report to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reporting Procedures/policy/Code of Conduct. ➤ Reporting Procedures/policy. ➤ Reporting Procedures/policy/Child Safeguarding Training - Level 1 ➤ CCO and DLP names displayed and roles proactively communicated and promoted
Use of Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Unauthorised access to designated children's play and practice areas, to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. ➤ Unauthorised exit from children's areas ➤ Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas ➤ Missing or found child on site ➤ Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supervision policy/General Guidelines with Juniors ➤ Supervision policy/General Guidelines with Juniors ➤ Photography policy and use of devices in private zones ➤ Missing or Found Child policy ➤ Safeguarding policy/General Guidelines with Juniors

Recruitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recruitment of inappropriate people ➤ Lack of clarity about roles ➤ Unqualified or untrained people in role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recruitment policy ➤ Recruitment policy ➤ Recruitment policy
Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of awareness of 'risk of harm' with members and visitors ➤ No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Conduct to staff/volunteers ➤ Unauthorised photography & recording of activities. ➤ Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18s ➤ Inappropriate use of social media and communications with under 18s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Child Safeguarding Statement / Training Policy ➤ Child Safeguarding Statement (display)/Code of Conduct distributed to all working with children. Proactive communication of Golf Ireland values and safeguarding standards ➤ Photography and Use of Images policy ➤ Communications policy/Code of Conduct/Social Media Policy/Disciplinary policy. ➤ Communications policy/Code of Conduct/Social Media Policy/Disciplinary policy
General Risk of Harm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Harm not being recognised ➤ Harm caused by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child to Child ○ Coach to Child ○ Volunteer to Child ○ Member to Child ○ Visitor to Child ➤ General behavioural issues ➤ Issues of Bullying ➤ Vetting of staff/volunteers ➤ Issues of Online Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Safeguarding policy/Child Safeguarding Training ➤ Safeguarding policy/Child Safeguarding Training/Anti-Bullying policy/Disciplinary policy. ➤ Code of Conduct ➤ Anti-Bullying policy ➤ Recruitment policy/Vetting policy ➤ Social Media guidance

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 15 / 02 / 2023

Signed: Neil Mannion
Club Children's Officer

Section 4

Procedures

This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice). In addition to the Risk Assessment document, there are further procedures that support the intention to safeguard children while they are availing of club activities.

As part of its Safeguarding Policy, Howth Golf Club has in place, the following procedures for:

- Management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child partaking in club activities
- Safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children and junior members
- Access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities

The Club Children's Officer is Noel Mannion.

Section 5

Implementation

Recognising that it is an ongoing process, Howth Golf Club is committed to putting into practice, this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support its intention to keep children safe from harm while participating in its activities.

Please note the following:

- All volunteers and staff have been furnished with a copy of this statement
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, Tusla and members of the public on request
- This statement is displayed in a prominent place in Howth Golf Club and is available to members on the club website

February

The Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in ____/2025 (every 2 years).

Signed: *Noel Mannion* Date: *28.02.2023*

Club Children's Officer on behalf of Howth Golf Club

Signed: *[Signature]* Date: *Feb. 15, 2023*

On behalf of Council

For queries relating to this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact the Club Children's Officer.