

	<p><b>Berkshire County Ladies Golf Association</b>  <b>Berkshire Girls Golf</b></p> <p><b>BCLGA/BGG Child Protection Policy Statement</b></p>	 January 2018
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**This Statement will be made available to all volunteers, coaches, members and their parents.**

Berkshire County Ladies Golf Association (BCLGA) has considered its responsibilities to the children participating in both BCLGA and its junior section, Berkshire Girls Golf (BGG) golfing activities very carefully, and has produced the:

“BCLGA and its Junior Section Berkshire Girls Golf Child Protection Policy and Procedures”

in order to set out the standards we wish to uphold in providing activities for children and safeguarding the welfare of children in our care.

BCLGA affiliates to England Golf, which is a member of the Children in Golf Strategy Group (SCiG). The professional coaches used by BCLGA and BGG are members of the Professional Golfers Association (PGA). BCLGA recognises the policies of these Governing Bodies in providing activities for children and safeguarding the welfare of children in our care.

### **1. Policy Statement**

BCLGA acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard the welfare of all children (defined as those under 18) involved in county golf activities. All children have a right to protection, and to have their particular needs taken into account.

BCLGA will therefore endeavour to ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in county golfing activities through the Child Protection guidelines adopted by the Executive Committee of the county. It is the responsibility of all adults to assist the Executive Committee in this endeavour.

### **2. Policy Aims**

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

### **3. Principles**

- The welfare of children is paramount
- All children regardless of age, gender, racial origin, religious belief, sexual identity and any disability have a right to enjoy sport free from all forms of abuse or poor practice

- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- All volunteers and coaches working in golf have a responsibility to report concerns to the County Welfare Officer
- Adults - volunteers, coaches and referees will be supported to understand their role and responsibility with regard to the duty of care and protection of children and young people to understand their roles and responsibilities with regard to the Duty of Care and protection of children
- Individuals will receive support through education and training to be aware of and understand best practice and how to manage any welfare and child protection issues that may come to light.

BCLGA will work in partnership with parents to review and implement child protection and welfare procedures.

BCLGA’s 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 Protection of Children Act 1999
The Police Act 1997	The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000
The Human Rights Act 1998	The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
The Data Protection Act 1994 & 1998	Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010
Caring for the young and vulnerable – Home Office Guidance for preventing the abuse of trust 1999	
What to do if you are worried a child is being abused 2005	
Any subsequent legislation relating to child protection would implicitly be incorporated into this document	

#### 4. Responsibilities and Communication

- The BCLGA Child Protection Policy will be available to all parents, volunteers, coaches and participants
- The Policy is reviewed every three years by the Executive Committee, and amended as appropriate. Guidance from golf’s governing bodies will be sought as part of the review process
- The Executive Committee has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including taking appropriate disciplinary action necessary
- The County Welfare Officer has responsibility for responding to any allegations, concerns or child protection incidents, passing information to the appropriate National Governing Body Lead Child Protection Officer and informing the appropriate county representatives.
- Parents have a responsibility to work together with the county in implementing procedures and providing their children with necessary information to safeguard themselves.

Signed By:

BCLGA President.....Elspeth Cooper

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018

BGG Junior County Organiser..... Sharron Hargreaves

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018