Bluebird Golf Centre

Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedures

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Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy Statement

Introduction

Everyone working with children and young people has a responsibility for keeping them safe, irrespective of their role, whether they are staff, contractors, volunteers or participants.

Bluebird Golf Centre is committed to ensuring that the sport of golf is one within which all participants can thrive in a safe environment, and that all children and young people have an enjoyable and positive experience when playing golf.

Key principles

- The welfare of children is paramount.
- A child is defined by law in England and Wales as a person under the age of 18.
- All children, regardless of their age, race, religion or belief, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation, have the right to protection from abuse.
- All concerns and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- All children have the right to be safe.
- All children have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- The Bluebird Golf Centre will work with children, their parents/carers and external organisations to safeguard the welfare of children participating in golf.
- We recognise the authority of the statutory agencies and are committed to complying with Local Safeguarding Partnership (LSP) guidelines, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, and any legislation that supersedes these.
- The Bluebird Golf Centre owes a legal duty of care to children on their premises or engaged in their activities.

Objectives

The Bluebird Golf Centre aims to:

- Provide a safe environment for children and young people participating in golfing activities and try to ensure that they enjoy the experience.
- Ensure robust systems are in place to manage any concerns or allegations.
- Support adults (staff, volunteers, contractors, members of the public) to understand their roles and responsibilities with regard to their duty of care towards children.
- Provide appropriate level training, support and resources for staff, volunteers and contractors to make informed and confident responses to specific safeguarding issues and fulfil their role effectively.
- Ensure that children and their parents/carers are consulted and, where appropriate, fully involved in decisions that affect them.

- Reassure parents/carers that all children and young people will receive the best care possible while participating in Bluebird Golf Centre activities.
- Proactively communicate safeguarding policies and procedures by making these readily available to all.

Responsibilities and implementation

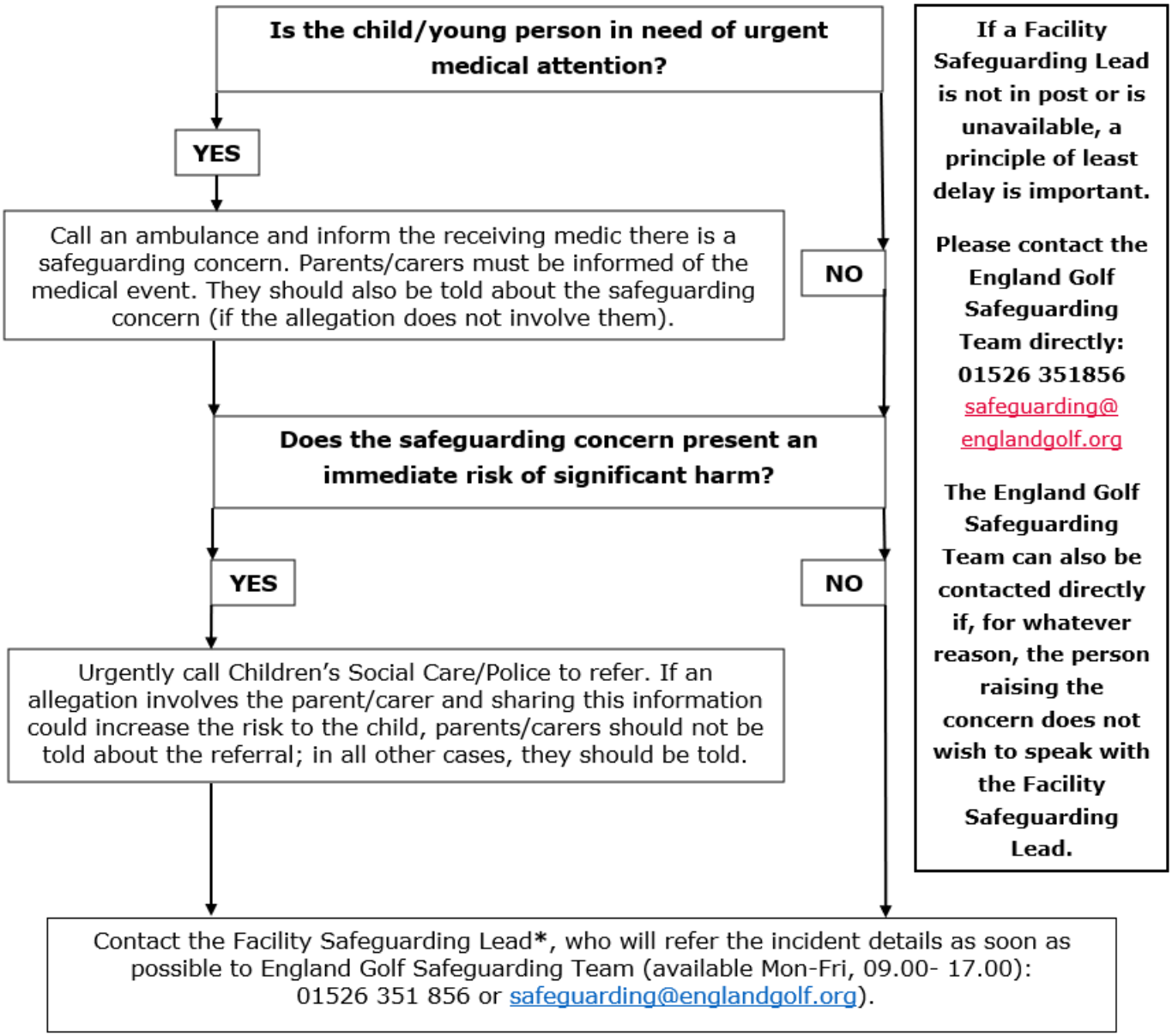
The Bluebird Golf Centre will seek to promote the principles of safeguarding children by:

- Reviewing their policy and procedures every three years or whenever there is a major change in legislation. Guidance from England Golf will be sought as part of the review process.
- Conducting a risk assessment of activities with regard to safeguarding and take appropriate action to address the identified issues within suitable timescales.
- Using appropriate recruitment procedures to assess the suitability of staff, contractors and volunteers working with children and young people (in line with guidance from England Golf).
- Following National Governing Body (NGB) procedures to report concerns and allegations about the behaviour of adults –

  and, where applicable, other children – and ensuring that all staff, volunteers, contractors and participants are aware of these procedures.
- Directing staff, volunteers and contractors to appropriate safeguarding training where this is relevant to their role.

1. Complaints, concerns and allegations

Flowchart: How to Report a Concern



1.1. If a player, parent/carer, member of staff, contractor or volunteer has a concern about the welfare of a child, or the conduct of an adult/another young person, these concerns should be reported without delay and in accordance with the reporting process flowchart on Page 7.

If, for whatever reason, the person raising the concern does not wish to speak with the Facility Safeguarding Lead (as per the standard reporting process), they can contact the England Golf Safeguarding Team directly: 01526 351856 or safeguarding@englandgolf.org

1.2. The person reporting the concern is not required to decide whether abuse has occurred, but simply has a duty to pass on their concerns and any relevant information.

1.3.To share concerns with the England Golf Safeguarding Team, concerns should be reported on 01526 351856 and recorded on an Incident Report Form **(Appendix 2)**. The completed Incident Report Form should be sent to England Golf Safeguarding Team for review, assessment and retention. All concerns will be treated in confidence. Details should only be shared on a 'need-to-know' basis with those who can help with the management of the concern.

1.4.England Golf will work with other agencies to take appropriate action where concerns relate to potential abuse or serious poor practice. Disciplinary procedures will be applied and followed where applicable.

1.5. The NSPCC Helpline is available to discuss concerns regarding poor practice and abuse, in confidence, with members of the public who need support. Those with concerns are encouraged to use this service. The Helpline number is 0808 800 5000.

1.6. Safeguarding children and young people requires everyone to be committed to the highest possible standards of openness, integrity and accountability. Bluebird Golf Centre supports an environment where staff, volunteers, parents/carers and the public are encouraged to raise safeguarding concerns. Anyone who reports a legitimate concern to the organisation (even if their concerns subsequently appear to be unfounded) will be supported. All concerns will be taken seriously.

2. Responding to a disclosure of abuse

1.If a child indicates that they are being abused, the person receiving the information should:

- Stay calm
- Listen carefully to what is being said, allowing the child to continue at their own pace, and take it seriously
- Explain that it is likely the information will have to be shared with others
- Keep questions to a minimum, asking questions only to identify/clarify what the child is saying
- Reassure the person that they have done the right thing in sharing the information
- At the outset, openly and honestly explain to the child, and their parents/ carers (where appropriate), how information could or will be shared, and why
- Seek agreement to share the information, but be aware that any objection raised should not prevent the information being shared (consent to share is not mandatory in terms of child safeguarding)
- Accurately record in writing what was said, using the child's own words, as soon as possible

2.The adult responding to the concern SHOULD NOT:

- Dismiss the concern
- Panic or allow emotion to show
- Make promises that cannot be kept
- Lead the child or encourage them to disclose more information than they are comfortably able to – this could compromise any future action
- Make comments about the alleged perpetrator/s
- Conduct an investigation of the case

If the matter is urgent and relates to the immediate safety of a child, then contact the police immediately.
Complete an Incident Report Form and email this to the England Golf Safeguarding Team within 24 hours.

3. Maintaining professional boundaries

1. Adults who work/volunteer with children are expected to behave appropriately and represent a positive role model for children. Bluebird Golf Centre requires that all staff, volunteers and contractors adhere to the standards set out in the Code of Conduct relevant to their role. Similarly, participants are expected to follow their own Code of Conduct to ensure the enjoyment of all participants and assist Bluebird Golf Centre in ensuring their welfare is safeguarded.

2. All adults should clearly understand the need to maintain appropriate boundaries in their dealings with children and young people.

3. Any sexual activity between adults and children under 16 is illegal and constitutes abuse.

4. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 includes 'positions of trust' offences to protect young people aged 16 and 17 who, despite reaching the age of consent for sexual activity, are considered to be vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation (in defined circumstances).

   This legislation was extended in June 2022 to include certain activities that take place in sport. The amendment protects 16 and 17-year-olds from potential abuse by adults with power and influence over them, by making intimate relationships (that were previously considered 'consensual') illegal.

AN ADULT WHO WORKS/VOLUNTEERS WITH CHILDREN MUST NOT ENTER INTO A SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 THAT THEY HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR. FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN THE ADULT INVOLVED BEING SUBJECT TO SAFEGUARDING AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

IT IS **HIGHLY LIKELY** THE ADULT INVOLVED WILL BE

REPORTED TO THE POLICE.

4. Useful contacts

Golf Contacts		
Name	Address	Contact details
Facility Safeguarding Lead – Adam Britnell	Preston New Road, Samlesbury, PR5 0UP	Mob: 01254 813703 Email: info@bluebird-golfcentre.com
England Golf Safeguarding Team	England Golf National Golf Centre The Broadway Woodhall Spa Lincolnshire LN10 6PU	01526 351856 safeguarding@englandgolf.org
Facility Manager – James Porter	Preston New Road, Samlesbury, PR5 0UP	Mob: 01254 813703 Email: info@bluebird-golfcentre.com

National Contacts		
Name	Address	Contact details
The NSPCC	National Centre 42 Curtain Road London EC2A 3NH	Tel: 0808 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.uk
NSPCC Whistleblowing Helpline for Professionals	N/A	0808 028 0285
NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit	3 Gilmour Close Beaumont Leys Leicester LE4 1EZ	Tel: 0116 234 7278 cpsu@nspcc.org.uk
Childline UK	Freepost 1111 London N1 0BR	Tel: 0800 1111
Samaritans	N/A	116 123

Local Contacts		
Name	Address	Contact details
Lancashire Children's Social Care (including out of office hours contact)	PO Box 78, County Hall, Fishergate, Preston, Lancashire, PR1 8XJ	DURING OFFICE HOURS 8am – 8pm 0300 123 6720 OUT OF HOURS 8pm – 8am 0300 123 6722
Local police child protection teams (in an emergency call 999)	As above (integrated services)	As above

Appendix 1 – categories of child abuse

Abuse can happen on any occasion or in any place where children and young people are present.

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. Children can be abused by adults, either male or female, or by other children.

Safeguarding is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

Child Protection is the activity that is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm.

There are 4 main types of abuse: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. Children and young people can also be harmed through poor practice and bullying within a sport setting.

Neglect is when adults consistently or repeatedly fail to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs which could result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development e.g. failure to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing; failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger; or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include refusal to give love, affection and attention.

Examples in sport could include a coach or supervisor repeatedly failing to ensure children are safe, exposing them to undue cold, heat or extreme weather conditions without ensuring adequate clothing or hydration; exposing them to unnecessary risk of injury e.g. by ignoring safe practice guidelines, failing to ensure the use of safety equipment, or by requiring young people to participate when injured or unwell.

Physical abuse is when someone physically hurts or injures children by hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, biting, scalding, suffocating, drowning or otherwise causing harm. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child they are looking after.

Examples in sport may be when the nature and intensity of training or competition exceeds the capacity of the child's immature and growing body; where coaches encourage the use of drugs or harmful substances to enhance performance or delay puberty; if athletes are required to participate when injured; or when sanctions used by coaches involve inflicting pain.

Sexual abuse is where children and young people are abused by adults (both male and female) or other children who use them to meet their own sexual needs. This could include sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, anal intercourse, kissing and sexual fondling. Showing children pornographic material (books, videos, pictures) or taking pornographic images of them are also forms of sexual abuse.

Sexual abusers groom children, protective adults and clubs/organisations in order to create opportunities to abuse and reduce the likelihood of being reported.

Examples in sport may include coaching techniques involving physical contact with children creating situations where sexual abuse can be disguised and may therefore go unnoticed. The power and authority of, or dependence on, the coach, if misused, may also lead to abusive situations developing. Contacts made within sport and pursued e.g. through texts, Facebook or Twitter have been used to groom children for abuse.

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity:

(a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or

(b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children, or even the over-protection of a child. It may involve causing children to feel frightened or in danger by being constantly shouted at, threatened or taunted, which may make the child very nervous and withdrawn. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child.

Examples in sport may include children who are subjected to constant criticism, name-calling, sarcasm, bullying, racism or pressure to perform to unrealistically high expectations; or when their value or worth is dependent on sporting success or achievement.

Appendix 2 – Incident Report Form

(Please populate this form with as much information as possible)

Recorder's Name:	
Address:	
Post Code:	Telephone No:

Name of Identified Child:	
Address:	
Post Code:	Telephone No:

Complainant's Name:	
Address:	
Post Code:	Telephone No:

Details of the allegations: [date; time; location; nature of the incident.]
Additional information: [witnesses; supporting statements etc.]
Have you discussed your concerns with the child you are worried about? What was their response?

England Golf Safeguarding department notified (01526 351856) Case Number (if allocated): Name of person spoken to: Date: Time:
Action taken: Date: Time:
Signature of Recorder: Signature of Complainant:
Data protection: England Golf Safeguarding Team may use the information in this form (together with other information they obtain as a result of any investigation) to investigate the alleged incident and to take whatever action is deemed appropriate, in accordance with their Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedures. Strict confidentiality will be maintained and information will only be shared on a 'need-to-know' basis in the interests of safeguarding. This may involve disclosing certain information to a specific organisations and individuals, including external bodies/statutory agencies, and individuals that are the subject of an investigation.