



BALTINGLASS GOLF CLUB

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Baltinglass Golf Club Junior Golf Mission Statement

Baltinglass Golf Club is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of all its members and specifically includes the welfare of our young members. Every member of the Club should at all times, show respect and understanding for members' rights, safety and welfare and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the objectives of the Club. (**Club Constitution 3.1.4**) The guidelines for the welfare of young people are outlined in the 'Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport' & 'Code of Ethics for Golf for Young People'. Young club members are to be given enjoyable, safe sporting opportunities, free of any abuse. These young participants have rights, which must be respected. Young members should be encouraged to realise that they also have responsibilities to treat other participants in golf and their golf sports leaders/coaches with fairness and respect.

Child Welfare and Protection Procedures

Baltinglass Golf Club accepts that organisations, which include young people among its members, could be vulnerable to the occurrence of child abuse. Child welfare and protecting young people is a matter of concern for all adults at all times, irrespective of their role within the Club.

The Club recognises that the protection and welfare of our junior & Juvenile golfers is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations and fully complies with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015, and the Addendum to Children First Act (2019) and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children and will fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities concerning child protection and welfare matters. The Club adopts safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to golfers and protect leaders/coaches/managers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect. We develop a practice of openness with parents, encourage parental involvement in the activities of their children and fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The Club has procedures in place for dealing with any welfare or protection issue that may arise. A concern could arise from a specific indication from a child, a statement from a person who witnessed abuse, or an illness, injury or behaviour consistent with abuse.

A report may be made to any member of the Club and this must be passed immediately on to the Club's **Designated Liaison Person**, who in turn has to pass the concern to the local Statutory Authorities. It is the function of the local Statutory Authorities to decide whether or not child abuse is occurring/has occurred. However, there is a responsibility on the Club to protect children by assisting the appropriate agencies so that they can then make enquiries and take any necessary action to protect the young person. Everyone with a child protection issue should firstly follow the procedures outlined in the Club's '**Golf for Young Members Policy 2024,**' (**Sections 16 – 18**), namely the procedure for responding to a child feeling vulnerable and secondly, the procedure for reporting the concern. (Procedures as outlined on the Club's website www.baltinglassgolfclub.ie).

The Club's Children's Officer is Mr. Peter Byrne: The **Designated Liaison Person** is Ms. Diane Patterson and Mr. Richard Monahan. is the **Junior Convenor**.

Signed: *Tom Hannafin* (Club Secretary)

Date: 30/03/2024