

## **SAFEGUARDING ADVICE UPDATE**

Some advice for Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults during Covid 19, especially during the early phases, where social distancing will be heavily enforced.

During times of enforced social isolation, the vulnerability of many children and adults is increased. It is therefore very important that clubs consider their safeguarding responsibilities in relation to children and vulnerable adults.

We suggest that clubs would need to consider the following points as a minimum:

### **Awareness of the Rules**

1. Ensuring all children and vulnerable adults are aware of the Covid 19 social distancing rules at golf venues. Advice for children regarding social distancing can be found at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51896017>

### **Supervision**

2. With lower staff levels there is likely to be less support for children and vulnerable adults during the phased return to golf. Clubs will need to consider whether individuals should be allowed to play without the supervision from a parent/guardian or carer. This may be appropriate for experienced and independent golfers, but not for others. Clubs may need to make arrangements for parents/guardians or carers to walk the course with the golfer while maintaining compliance with rules about meeting with individuals from other households.
3. If supervision for a child or vulnerable adult is provided by someone other than a parent/guardian or carer, it should be with the consent of the parent/guardian or carer and should be someone the child knows and is confident with or has played with before, or is DBS checked and a professional/registered volunteer.

### **Reporting**

4. Children and vulnerable adults should be reminded of the need to remain vigilant and informed of whom to speak to if they have any concerns. All clubs should have a welfare officer in place to whom concerns can be reported at any time.
5. All children and vulnerable adult golfers should have a charged mobile phone, with the number of an emergency contact.
6. Concerns can be reported to England Golf by email: [safeguarding@englandgolf.org](mailto:safeguarding@englandgolf.org) or via <https://www.safegolf.org/>

### **Facilities**

7. Children and vulnerable adults should not be left unsupervised in shared toilet or washroom facilities.

## Coaching

8. Coaching guidance can be found through the following links:  
<https://www.englandgolf.org/government-clarification-on-coaching-and-retail-provision/>  
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/lone-working>  
<https://www.pga.info/covid-19-resource-hub/>

## Further support and Guidance

- **England Golf**  
<https://www.englandgolf.org/club-support/safeguarding/>
- **Child Protection in Sport Unit**  
<https://thecpsu.org.uk/news/2020-04-covid-19-and-safeguarding-in-sport/>
- **Direct.Gov**  
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- **Golf Foundation**  
<https://www.golf-foundation.org/clubs/hsbc-golf-roots-centres/don-t-forget-our-young-golfers/>
- **Professional Golfers' Association**  
<https://www.pga.info/covid-19-resource-hub/>