

HARWICH & DOVERCOURT GOLF CLUB

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Harwich & Dovercourt Golf Club acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members.

A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 years who is engaged in any Golf Club activity.

Child Protection & Best Practice Policy:

The Harwich & Dovercourt Golf Club subscribes to the England Golf child protection and best practice policy and procedures and endorses and adopts the policy statements contained in that document.

The key principles of the England Golf child protection policy are:-

- The child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration.
- All children and young persons have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to with due diligence and as soon as practicable.
- To work in partnership with other organisations, and with the children and young people and their parents or carers is essential.

The Club acknowledges that every child or young person who plays or participates in golf should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practice and abuse. The Harwich & Dovercourt Golf Club recognises that this responsibility should be shared by all adult members of the club.

The Harwich & Dovercourt Golf Club has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all junior members of the club by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying.

The Club endorses and adopts the England Golf child protection and best practice guidelines for recruiting volunteers and will :-

- Develop a role profile
- Request identification documentation
- Meet and interview applicants prior to appointment
- Request and follow up references
- Require a CRB enhanced disclosure in line with England Golf guidelines.

Criminal Record Bureau disclosure:

All current Harwich & Dovercourt Golf Club members with direct access to children and young people will be required to complete a CRB enhanced disclosure via England Golf

and if there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has been approached of the club, England Golf's guidance will be sought who will make all decisions in the best interests of the children or young persons.

It is accepted that England Golf's aims are to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people.

Child Welfare Officer:

The Harwich & Dovercourt Golf Club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer. The post holder will be responsible for and involved with designated person's training and qualification. The CWO should be the first point of contact for all club members, and parents/guardians/carers, regarding concerns for the welfare of any child or young person. The CWO will be responsible for referring any concerns to the appropriate authority and will play a proactive role in increasing an awareness of poor practice and abuse amongst club members.

Bullying:

The Club acknowledges and endorses the England Golf identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable (***see club anti-bullying policy***). All club members, parents/guardians/carers should be made aware that such incidents will be dealt with promptly and with due diligence once brought to the attention of a committee member or the CWO.

Codes of conduct:

Codes of conduct are enshrined in the rules of golf, local rules, the tenets of golf etiquette and the clubs' dress code plus the club's child protection policies, and it is expected that all members will abide by these codes at all times. It is also expected that all visitors to the club, including parents, spectators, officials and coaches, will abide by these codes when on golf club land or premises. Any breaches of the codes will be referred to and dealt with by the committee. All prospective members will be informed of the codes of conduct upon joining the club.