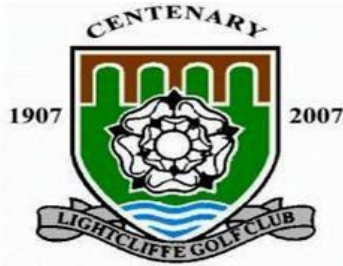




## **LIGHTCLIFFE GOLF CLUB (1951) LIMITED**

### **JUNIOR SECTION MISSION STATEMENT**

To promote and support Junior Golf, providing an environment which encourages young people to develop their skills to the best of their ability irrespective of gender, religion or race.



## **LIGHTCLIFFE GOLF CLUB (1951) LIMITED**

### **JUNIOR POLICY**

The Junior Section of Lightcliffe Golf Club is an integral part of the membership structure of the club. Lightcliffe Golf Club has a Junior Committee which in line with good practice; a Junior Organiser; a Child Welfare Officer and a member of the Board / management committee and other volunteers. This committee co-ordinates junior activities with the support of the Club Professional. A Junior Captain is elected annually.

Lightcliffe Golf club is fully committed to the English Golfing Union Charter and has adopted the English Golf Union Child Protection Policy. Through this policy, the Club recognizes its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of junior members and protect them from poor practice, abuse and bullying. Details of the Children in Golf Child Protection Policy are available on the Junior Notice Board. This policy is reviewed every three years by the club as part of our GOLFMARK re-accreditation. In-line with good practice, the club undertakes Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks on those members and employees directly involved with juniors, as advised by England Golf. Lightcliffe Golf Club is not responsible for providing adult supervision of children except for formal junior golf coaching, matches and competitions. Parents and guardians have an important role to play in their child's membership and participation in golf and must take responsibility for their child at all times. Children must not be left unaccompanied for extensive periods before / after clubhouse opening times.

### **Coaching**

Junior members are supported in their development through a Junior Golf School which provides coaching by the club's PGA professional on a free or subsidised basis. This covers the following topics:

- Club rules
- The rules of Golf & Etiquette
- Junior handicapping system
- Health & Safety (both on & off course)
- Junior matches & competitions
- Coaching.

The PGA professional will use this structured training to assess and 'sign off' juniors who are eligible to play on the course and use the practice facilities.

'Provisional' access rights will be given to young or novice Juniors who are working to prove their knowledge, ability and maturity through the Golf School and support from parents, guardians or approved mentors.

'Approved' access rights will be given to juniors who have proven their knowledge, ability and maturity and are likely to be working towards attaining or have achieved a full CONGU handicap. The PGA professional will maintain a list of 'approved' juniors, which will be displayed on the Junior Notice Board.

## Who is allowed on the course and the practice ground?

For their own safety:

- Only children who are playing golf, and have received the appropriate permission from the professional, are allowed on the course.
- Children under the age of 6 years old are not allowed on the course, under any circumstances.

## Age Categories

In order to ensure the safety of junior golfers, but also to recognise their developing maturity and experience on the course, junior members are considered in 3 distinct age groups:

- Under 10's: Children aged 6 to 9
- Under 12's: Children aged 10 to 11
- Under 16's: Children aged 12 to 15.

Whilst members aged 16 to 18 are still classified as juniors, it is assumed that they are mature enough to be treated as adult members and that the conditions described below should not need to be applied.

## Experience

The conditions described below are based on the assumption that junior members continually develop as they progress through the age categories.

The gradual relaxing of conditions, particularly between ages 9 and 10 is in recognition of the progress junior golfers make.

However, the Junior Organiser should always have the option to impose additional conditions, should they consider a need. For example, a new junior who falls within the under 12 category may, for a period of time, be expected to adhere to the conditions placed upon under 10's, until they can demonstrate sufficient experience and knowledge of playing the game.

## Accompanying Adults

Accompanying adults are required to walk around the course with junior golfers in the under 10 category. They are **NOT** permitted to play golf. Their sole responsibility is to supervise and care for the junior golfers.

Accompanying adults may not be golfers. Therefore, a pack is provided containing key points regarding golfing rules, etiquette and safety considerations.

## CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED TO ALL JUNIOR GOLF

### All Age Groups

- All junior golfers must have been approved by the Club Professional.
- The maximum group size, under all circumstances is **4**.  
A group is defined as the number of people walking around the course together. This will include junior golfers, adult golfers and accompanying adults.
- Any group must adhere to the conditions set out for the youngest golfer in the group.
- The Junior Organiser retains the option to impose additional conditions, based on the experience and behaviour of individual junior golfers.

### Under 10's

- There must be at least one **accompanying adult** in every group.
- The ratio of juniors to adults must not exceed 2:1

### Under 12's

- There must be at least one adult in every group. (Adults may golf.)
- The ratio of juniors to adults must not exceed 3:1

### Under 16's

- Under 16's must not play alone.

### Foursomes Competitions

The only exception to the above conditions is in the event of a Foursomes competition, where teams comprise of one adult and one junior golfer.

In this circumstance each junior will be in the company of an adult golfer throughout the round. There is therefore no need for accompanying adults.

## The Conditions defined above were a result of the following considerations.

Condition	Reasoning
All age groups	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The maximum group size, under all circumstances is 4.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Groups exceeding 4 people would be less safe, due to overcrowding on and around tees.</li> <li>- Larger groups are likely to be more audible and less aware of shouts of "Fore!" from other golfers.</li> <li>- Smaller groups will ensure that play is kept to speed.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any group must adhere to the conditions set out for the youngest golfer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specific conditions placed upon any group should clearly cater for the youngest and least experienced members.</li> </ul>
Under 10's	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There must be at least one accompanying adult in every group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We must ensure that there is one adult who is solely focussed on the supervision younger golfers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ratio of juniors to adults must not exceed 2:1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On review of the current policy and the incorporation of the conditions described above, it was considered reasonable to relax the ratio from 1:1 to 2:1.</li> <li>- The situation of 2 junior golfers playing, under the supervision of one accompanying adult is reasonable.</li> <li>- The combined conditions means that there cannot be more than 2 junior golfers in any group, which will ensure that speed of play is maintained.</li> </ul>

Condition	Reasoning
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Under 12's	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There must be at least one adult in every group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We must ensure that there is one adult to supervise junior golfers, under the age of 12.</li> <li>- However, given their maturity and experience on the course, the specific need for an accompanying adult is considered unnecessary.</li> <li>- Under the original policy, junior golfers jump from 1:1 supervision to un-supervised in a single step, at age 12. It is considered preferable to introduce an intermediate condition, to recognise and reward progression made by junior golfers, as they mature.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ratio of juniors to adults must not exceed 3:1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On review of the current policy and the incorporation of the conditions described above, it was considered reasonable to allow for a situation of 3 experienced junior golfers playing under the supervision of one adult.</li> <li>- The combined conditions means that there can not be more than 3 junior golfers in any group, which will ensure that speed of play is maintained.</li> <li>- Retaining the option for the Junior Organiser to impose additional conditions, means that any inexperienced golfers in this age group can effectively be treat as Under 10s, reducing the ratio back to 2:1.</li> </ul>

Under 16's	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under 16's must not play alone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purely for safety reasons, children should not play alone. They should either play in a group or be accompanied by someone else over the age of 12.</li> </ul>

## Competitions

Juniors under 16 years old with a CONGU handicap are eligible to enter adult competitions. They must play with an adult wherever possible and can only play with other juniors with the prior specific approval of the PGA professional or the competition secretary.

## Conduct

All juniors must sign the Club's Code of Conduct for Junior's and in addition will be subject to the same rules of etiquette as the adults.

The opening times of the clubhouse are clearly displayed on the notice board and on the ground floor door to the lobby to the changing rooms. It is a requirement that all juniors who are not supervised by an adult leave the course before dusk. Children must not be left unaccompanied for extensive periods before / after clubhouse opening hours.

All juniors may purchase soft drinks and food from the bar, but must leave the bar area as soon as is practicable. Juniors are not allowed to stand or sit by any open bar and are not allowed to play any gaming machines or take part in any gambling activities. Juniors may however sit with their parent/guardian, approved adult, or other junior providing they sit away from the bars.

Juniors under 11 years old must not use the changing rooms without the supervision of their parent / guardian or two authorized adults. A single disabled toilet is available at the other end of the clubhouse. Juniors over the age of 11 must have written consent from a parent / guardian before using the changing rooms.

In the event of the Club being hired or there being a formal club function, juniors are not allowed in the Clubhouse after 7.00 pm unless they have been participating in a golf match or competition or have been invited to the function.

Should any junior violate any part of the rules, regulations, bye-laws or local rules of the Club, or conduct themselves in a manner as is, in the opinion of the Junior Committee, likely to injure or discredit the character of the Club, the circumstances, should be reported to the Professional, the Junior Organiser, or the Club Welfare Officer. If breaches of etiquette, or Code of Conduct are noted, the junior may be asked to work with the Professional and/or Junior Organiser to become familiar with the appropriate behaviour. In more serious cases, the matter will be referred to The Board who shall call upon the junior member, accompanied by an appropriate adult for an explanation. The Club's normal disciplinary proceedings will then be followed.

## Junior Committee

Lightcliffe Golf Club has an ongoing, outward looking policy to encourage golfers of all ages, gender and disabilities. As part of this strategy a Junior Committee has been set up by the Board to oversee the interests, disciplines and protection of all

juniors. This committee includes the Club Junior Welfare Officer and reports directly to the Board of Directors.

The Junior Committee's aims are to:

- Encourage the welfare of any child who may show an interest in golf.
- Develop the child's knowledge and ability through coaching, lessons, etiquette and rules sessions.
- Encourage the development of those of above average talent and ability to their ultimate wishes by constantly updating and informing the relevant junior golfing authorities.
- Encourage those of less ability to continue to develop in order to fulfil their full potential.
- Offer the opportunity for juniors to represent the Club in external competitions at all levels.
- Make available the use of the course wherever possible paying due regard to the other sections rights and the clubhouse within the law.
- Lightcliffe golf Club is in regular contact with local schools and constantly upgrades them with information on junior training sessions and open days regardless of previous golfing ability, knowledge or past interest.
- As the protection of children in our care is a priority, Lightcliffe Golf Club has adopted the EGU Child Protection /Equity Policy.
- While each junior's ultimate aim should be to obtain the best CONGU handicap possible, Lightcliffe Golf Club's priority is for juniors to enjoy their golf in a safe environment and to encourage them to see golf as a lifetime leisure activity.