



**CHILD SAFE
STATEMENT FOR
JUNIOR GOLF
PARTICIPATION AND
COACHING**

Adopted 7 September 2020

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Child Safe Statement for Junior Golf Participation and Coaching

Child Safe Policy Statement

The Safety Beach Golf Club is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people accessing our Junior Golf Program, facilities, activities or events. We are committed to providing children with positive and nurturing experiences. As such any form of Child Abuse will not be tolerated.

We support the rights of the child and will act without hesitation to ensure a child-safe environment is maintained at all times. We listen to Children and address any concerns that may arise. We are also committed to supporting parents and carers to protect their children.

We also support the rights and wellbeing of our Junior Coaches and volunteers and encourage the active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants.

What is meant by Child Protection?

Child Protection is about keeping children safe from abuse and protecting them from people who may cause them harm.

The responsibility to protect children requires everyone involved to feel able to report a suspicion of child abuse and/or neglect if they have reasonable grounds.

Child Abuse could be:

- **Physical abuse** - when a person purposefully injures or threatens to injure a child.
- **Emotional abuse** - an attack on a child's self-esteem, eg through bullying, name calling, threatening ridiculing, intimidating or isolating the child.
- **Sexual abuse** - any sexual act or sexual threat imposed on a child.
- **Neglect** - where a child is harmed by the failure to provide the physical and emotional necessities.
- **Grooming**- when a person engages in predatory conduct to prepare a child or young person for sexual activity at a later time.
- **Distributing on or sharing** –materials containing images of Children taken without their consent or the consent of their guardians.

Child abuse results from someone doing something harmful or by a person failing to act to protect a child from being harmed or being at risk of abuse.

For golf this means creating a positive and encouraging environment where children can take part in an activity feeling safe from any form of bullying, harassment or abuse. A positive environment will contribute to children having fun, developing skills, actively participating and feeling safe.

Who is Responsible?

Everyone in our golf club has a responsibility to care for and protect any children who participate in their activities.

Coaches and volunteers have a legal obligation to report any suspected child abuse and/or neglect. Initial report should be made immediately to the club's Child Safety Officer (Teresa Lincoln: 0439700515 lincolnteresa@gmail.com). Victorian State Government and VicSport procedures outlined in *Child Safe Standards – Responding To And Reporting Suspected Child Abuse* <https://vicsport.com.au/standard-5--processes-for-responding-and-reporting-ssa> will be followed.

Risk Minimisation:

All efforts will be made to minimise the risk to children.

- Parents will be encouraged to remain at the venue during coaching sessions. However will be required to maintain a distance as to not be communicating with their child during coaching.
- WWWC will be requested for all coaches and volunteers engaging in activities that require the supervision of children and
- online Child Safety Modules will be completed by coaches and volunteers.
- Coaches and volunteers must possess the necessary teaching and communication skills appropriate to the age group being coached and have good knowledge of playing the game and its rules.
- Referee checks will be undertaken.
- At Safety Beach Golf Club, we promote and distribute information about this Child Safe Statement to Children and parents/carers as part of an introduction to facilities, activities, services and programs. Club Members are also made aware of this Statement.
- We respect and recognize the importance of culture and religion in the lives of Children and families however; the right of Children to protection from harm should take precedence over any cultural or religious belief.

Confidentiality

The Club Secretary is responsible for secure record keeping such that details are only accessible to those who are authorised to access them. In the event that matters pertaining to Child Safety or Family Court are relevant to the club then only those persons directly involved are informed and the information treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Medical conditions considered relevant to the club (for example Epilepsy, Type-1 Diabetes, Allergies, Asthma) should be notified to the coaches and a medical management plan be accessible in the event of emergency.

Procedure for Reporting possible neglect or abuse

The club has an appointed Child Safety Officer, Mrs Teresa Lincoln, to whom any suspicions should be reported confidentially. The allegation will be investigated and reported through the appropriate channels. The Golf Australia Member Protection Policy sets out the steps for handling of complaints and their resolution.

Should a member of the club be suspected of breaching the Child Safe Policy of the club they will immediately be suspended from contact with children pending investigation and determination of the complaint. The member and child concerned will be treated with confidentiality during this process. Depending on the outcome of the investigation the Committee may take further disciplinary action irrespective of the decision of government authorities.

Adopted Board Directors - 7 September, 2020