

Roscommon Golf Club

Junior Guidelines & Code of Conduct



The guidelines in this document are based on the guidelines/procedures as outlined in the following documents:

- Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport Irish Sports Council & Sports Council Northern Ireland, 2006
- Code of Ethics for Golf for Young People, Junior Golf Ireland (Incorporating the GUI, ILGU, PGA-Irish Region), 2006
- Roscommon Golf Club Constitution

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1. GLOSSARY

Golf

Golf: when referred to as a collective authority, shall mean Roscommon Golf Club, the GUI,ILGU and the PGA.

GUI

The Golfing Union of Ireland, founded in 1891,the National Administrative Authority for Men's Amateur Golf in Ireland.

ILGU

The Irish Ladies' Golf Union, founded 1893, the National Administrative Authority for Ladies Amateur Golf in Ireland.

PGA

The Professional Golfers' Association (Irish Region), originally founded in 1911 by the GUI at the request of the Professional Golfers of Ireland and then known as the Irish professional Golfers' Association, the Governing Authority for Professional Golf in Ireland.

Junior Member

Junior members are young persons under the age of 18 years who are still attending full time primary or second level education. However junior members whose second level education extends past 18 years of age will be permitted to continue as a junior member until they complete their studies at second level education.

Junior Convenor

The individual(s) in the club/organisation who heads the Junior Golf Committee, definition includes Junior Organiser, Junior Co-ordinator & Junior Chairman.

Lead Officer

An adult, who holds a supervisory role in relation to junior members and who has the added responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of the Code of Ethic's within Roscommon Golf Club. In addition they are responsible for ensuring liaison with statutory authorities as necessary.

Leader

A volunteer, PGA Professional or qualified coach who works with and/or facilitates junior members to learn and compete in golf. A volunteer includes but is not limited to: Junior Convenors, Teachers, Coaches, Golf Professionals and members of the Junior Golf Committees and those appointed to positions of trust with junior members.

Parent

Parent shall mean a parent, guardian or carer of a junior member.

Statutory Authorities

Refers to those who have statutory responsibility for the welfare and protection of young people in Ireland, for example An Garda Síochána and the Health Services Executive (HSE).

2. CORE VALUES IN SPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Junior golf is based on the following principles that will guide the development of young people within golf, (as outlined in page 9, Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport). Young People's experience of sport should be guided by what is best for the young person. The Stages of development and the ability of the young person should guide the types of activity provided within the club. Adults will need to have a basic understanding of the needs of young people, including physical, emotional and personal.

Integrity in relationships

Adults interacting with you people in sport should do so with integrity and respect for the child. There is a danger that sporting contexts can be used to exploit or undermine children. All adult actions in sport should be guided by what is best for the child and in the context of quality, open working relationships. Verbal, physical, emotional or sexual abuse of any kind is unacceptable.

Quality atmosphere and ethos

Sport for young people should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere. A child-centred ethos will contribute to a safe and enjoyable atmosphere within the organisation.

Equality

All children should be treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of age, ability, sex, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion. Children with disability should be involved in sports activities in an integrated way, thus allowing them to participate to their potential alongside other children.

Fair Play

Fair play is the guiding principle of the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport. All sport for young people should be conducted in an atmosphere of Fair play. Ireland has contributed and is committed to the European Code of Sports Ethics, which derives fair play as "much more than playing within rules". It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for other and always playing with the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just behaving. It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of opportunities, excessive commercialisation and corruption.(European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe, 1993).

Competition

A balanced approach to competition can make significant contribution to the development of young people, while at the same time providing fun, enjoyment and satisfaction. However, competitive demands are often placed on children too early, which results in excessive levels of pressure on them. This can contribute to a high level of drop out from sport. Sports leaders should aim to put the welfare of the child first and competitive standards second. A child-centred approach will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.

3. INTRODUCTION

This booklet outlines the specific rules and regulations relating to junior golf set down by the Management Committee of Roscommon Golf Club. Roscommon GC is committed to fully implementing the code of ethics and good practice for junior golfers set down in the 'Code of Ethics for Golf for Young People' by Junior Golf Ireland in conjunction with the GUI, ILGU and PGA (Irish Region).

A full copy of the 'Code of Ethics for Golf for Young People' can be downloaded from Junior Golf Ireland's website (www.juniorgolfireland.com). It is imperative that parents, junior members and junior golf leaders/convenors familiarise themselves with both the content of this document and the full code of ethics detailed in the 'Code of Ethics for Golf for Young People' as they are key to ensuring that our junior members can play golf in a safe and friendly environment.

4. MISSION STATEMENT

Roscommon Golf Club is committed to providing golfing facilities to all junior members in a safe and friendly environment. The Club is also dedicated to ensuring all junior members play at a level that they are comfortable with and have a good knowledge and understanding of the game, rules and etiquette. Roscommon Golf Club will strive to be proactive as a leader in junior golf activities.

5. POLICY STATEMENT

Roscommon Golf Club is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of their members. Every individual in golf should at all times, show respect and understanding for members rights, safety and welfare and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the organisation and the guidelines contained in the 'Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport'.

In working with young people in golf our first priority is the welfare of the young people and we are committed to providing an environment that will allow participants to perform to the best of their ability, free from bullying and intimidation and enhancing the life skills that will assist them in their future years.

6. CORE OBJECTIVES FOR JUNIOR GOLF IN ROSCOMMON GOLF CLUB

Roscommon Golf Club is committed to developing its junior golf programme to meet with the following core objectives:

- Promote and encourage junior golf within our area.
- Encourage an active participation in junior competitions.
- Provide opportunities to improve junior members' golfing skills.
- Develop junior members' life skills.
- Develop a sense of fair play and respect for the rules of golf.
- Respect all members of Roscommon Golf Club.
- Encourage representation in inter club competitions.
- Provide a framework to retain junior members and increase junior membership.

7. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS

Roscommon Golf Club wishes to provide the best possible environment for all young people involved in the sport. Young people deserve to be given enjoyable and safe sporting opportunities, free of abuse of any kind. These participants have rights, which must be respected, and responsibilities that they must accept. Young People should be encouraged to realise that they have responsibilities to treat other participants and sports leaders with fairness and respect.

Junior members should strive to:

- Play fairly at all times.
- Respect all members and guests.
- Respect all sports leaders (Convenors, Coaches, Professionals, club officials, etc.)
- Respect the facilities.
- Respect their opponents.
- Help out partners/opponents i.e. if a ball is lost.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

Junior members should not:

- Cheat, as this is disrespectful to you, to others and to the game of golf.
- Use verbal or physical abuse.
- Use foul language.
- Shout, argue or throw clubs at any time.
- Bully other junior members.
- Tell lies or spread rumours about other members.
- Damage the course or practice facilities intentionally.

8. JUNIOR RULES

- Junior members must vacate the clubhouse by 6pm unless they are accompanied by an adult or they have been invited by the club.
- All new junior members must be given permission by the Junior Convenor before proceeding to play on the course.

Junior members **THAT DO NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO PLAY IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS** shall adhere to the following rules in their use of the facilities of Roscommon Golf Club:

- Have access to the course and the practice areas on weekdays up to 6pm when facilities are not otherwise booked.
- Are not permitted on the course at weekends except when accompanied by an adult member or attending scheduled coaching sessions.
- May only play the course or use the practise areas after 18.00hrs if accompanied by an adult member.

ALL JUNIOR MEMBERS MUST AT ALL TIMES ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING RULES:

- Give way to adult members on the 1st tee and on the course if requested.
- Not loiter in the clubhouse, practice areas and surrounds.
- Always obey Committee Members and Golf Club Staff.
- Observe the golf club's dress code at all times.
- Participate in the coaching/practice sessions and junior competitions that will be arranged and posted on the Junior Notice board, Facebook, Email or Club Website.
- Compete in a minimum of 5 Junior Competitions organised on a weekly basis. Junior members with senior handicaps must play in a minimum of 3 junior competitions annually to retain their permission to participate in senior competitions.
- Be available, where possible, for selection to represent the club in inter-club competitions.
- Be available, where possible, to help out at major club events during the year.

9. DRESS CODE

The Dress Code for Roscommon Golf Club is designed to ensure that sensible golfing and sociable standards are adhered to and maintained on the course and in the clubhouse at all times.

Only clean, neat, smart dress is acceptable on the course and in the clubhouse. All junior members are requested to adhere and respect the dress code at all times.

The following items are NOT ACCEPTABLE.

- Untailored Shorts
- Track suits
- Football shirts or football shorts
- Tee shirts without collar sleeves
- Hoodies
- Wearing of headwear in the bar or restaurant.
- Golf shoes are not permitted in the clubhouse (with the exception of the locker rooms)

10. CARE OF THE GOLF COURSE

- A Pitch-mark repairer is required by every golfer while on the course.
- Repair your pitch marks on every green, also repair those not made by you whenever possible. (A pitch mark left unrepaired for 24 hours will take 2 weeks to heal).
- Replace divots. (an un-replaced divot will not repair and will require sanding and seeding by our course staff)
- Rake bunkers after playing from a bunker. A player should always leave a bunker as they wish to find it.

Any misbehaviour or infringement of these rules could result in disciplinary action been taken against the junior members in accordance with Roscommon Golf Club's constitution.

11. PLAYING RIGHTS FOR MEN'S / BOYS COMPETITIONS

- A junior member must have the appropriate annual subscription paid in order to play in any Club competitions.
- In club competitions designated other than singles (fourball, foursomes etc.) a junior member may play with Full / Ordinary member.
- At least one Full/Ordinary member must accompany junior golfers in competition play and the junior card must be signed by the Full/Ordinary member.
- Juniors may play in club competitions for a designated junior prize and must follow the entry procedures as outlined by the Competition Committee. Score card must be marked 'Junior' under the player's name. The entry fee and competition rules will be decided by the Competition Committee.
- Juniors are only eligible to win a net junior prize in all single competitions.
- Juniors may enter and compete in all club competitions with equal standing to full members subject to timesheet availability as outlined except for the following events: Captains Prize, Presidents Prize, Smithwick's Cup and competitions where there is a draw for partners.
- Juniors may enter "Open" competitions other than "The Open Week" competitions with equal standing to Full / Ordinary members.
- Junior/Student members may invite a guest to play in an adult competition provided the guest is a full member, with handicap, of another golf club.
- CLUB TEAMS: A junior member is required to play for any Inter-club team as requested by the Captain of the respective team. A level of discretion is anticipated but only in exceptional circumstances.

12. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE JUNIOR CONVENOR

Roscommon Golf Club recognises the key role leaders (professionals, coaches, convenors, captains, selectors, committee members and team managers etc.) play in the lives of junior members in the club. The Junior Convenor has an overall responsibility to take the necessary steps to ensure that positive and healthy experiences are provided. All leaders should have as their first priority the junior members' safety and enjoyment of golf and should adhere to the guidelines and regulations set out by Junior Golf Ireland in the 'Code of Ethics for Golf For Young People'.

The Junior Convenor must fulfil the following roles and responsibilities:

- Abide by the contents of 'Code of Ethics for Golf for Young People'.
- Organise all junior club competitions
- Provide junior members with "domestic" handicaps.
- Increase/Reduce junior members' "domestic" handicaps as appropriate
- Recommend the elevation of junior members to senior handicaps when they have attained the required junior handicap.
- Liaise closely with the club's PGA Professional to organise Junior Coaching Programmes.
- Ensure teams are entered in Junior GUI Competitions.
- Select junior teams in consultation with team selectors.
- Supervise/observe the behaviour of junior members on and off the course while at the club or representing the club.
- Ensure the club's dress code is observed by all juniors
- Chair all meetings of the junior Committee.
- Ensure all members of the junior committee are vetted by the Gardai Siochana and comply with statutory regulations.

13. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS

Roscommon Golf Club and its affiliated organisations believe that parents should:

- Be a role model for your child and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with young people, other parents, officials and organisers.
- Always behave responsibly and do not seek to unfairly affect a player or the outcome of the game.
- Never intentionally expose any young participant to embarrassment or disparagement by the use of flippant or sarcastic remarks.
- Always recognise the value and importance of the officials and volunteers who provide sporting and recreational opportunities for your child.
- Do not publicly question the judgement or honesty of referees, coaches or organisers.
- Respect convenors, professionals, coaches, referees, organisers and other players.
- Parents are welcome to attend events and coaching sessions but should not interfere with the coach or professional while working with the player(s).
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Teach your child that honest endeavour is as important as winning and do all you can to encourage good sportsmanship.
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides.
- Encourage mutual respect for teammates and opponents.
- Respect the rules and procedures set down by Roscommon Golf Club and its affiliated organisations.
- Respect their child's teammates and leaders as well as players, parents and coaches from opposing teams.
- Encourage their child to treat other participants, professionals, coaches' convenors, selectors and managers with respect.
- Never demonstrate threatening or abusive behaviour or use foul language.

14. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

- Notification of coaching times and completion dates will be posted through the Junior Noticeboard, Facebook or the club website.
- Parents should not drop off children without checking availability of course and practice areas (in the golf club's office/ golf club staff, committee members or on the notice board).
- Parents are responsible for their children's behaviour while at the golf club.

15. DISCIPLINE

Minor breaches of the dress code/Junior Rules/Rules of Golf will be dealt with by the Junior Committee. Continued breaches of the above will be dealt with in accordance with the "Disciplinary and Complaints Procedure" outlined below.

Disciplinary & Complaints Procedure

Complaints in relation to young people, their coaches and their parents may be dealt with under the 'disputes' rules contained within the Club's Constitution and the disciplinary procedure contained within the 'Code of Ethics for Golf for Young People'.

Complaints may be lodged by all members of the club.

- They should be received in writing by the lead officer/ junior convenor of the club. A complaint should be made to the club captain if it is about the lead officer or convenor.
- The complaint should outline all relevant details about the parties involved.
- The lead officer/junior convenor may convene a disciplinary committee of 3 people (including adult members involved with Junior Golf). However, if the complaint involves the possibility of a criminal offence the convenor should talk to the lead officer within the club or organisation as appropriate, who will follow the Code of Ethics reporting procedure. The statutory authorities will then be informed.
- The disciplinary committee should hear the case of all parties involved and decide if a rule or regulation of the Code has been infringed.
- They should, in writing, inform those involved of the sanctions to be imposed. Written notification should be given to parents if the complaint is against a junior member.
- Keep all records on file (By Junior Convenor until the junior member concerned becomes a full member within the club).
- If any party does not agree with the disciplinary committee they can appeal the decision in writing within a 10-day period.
- The appeals committee is convened by the junior convenor, whose chairperson should be taken from the Management Committee of Roscommon Golf Club and should not include those who have been on the original disciplinary committee.
- The appeals committee should confirm or set aside or change any sanction imposed by the disciplinary committee.
- For complaints in relation to PGA members the lead officer should be contacted in order to ensure the PGA process is followed.

APPENDIX 1 – Useful Contacts

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