



Junior Playing Rights Policy

1. Purpose

Peel Golf Club is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive and accessible environment where people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities can enjoy the game of golf. We believe golf should be available to everyone and actively encourage participation at every level, with a particular focus on supporting and developing junior golfers wherever possible.

The club is dedicated to providing a safe, respectful and enjoyable experience for all members, visitors and young people through robust safeguarding and welfare policies, a trained Club Safeguarding and Welfare Officer (CSWO) and clear codes of conduct that promote wellbeing, equality and mutual respect across the club community.

This policy sets out the conditions under which junior members may:

- access the golf course for general play,
- participate in junior golf competitions,
- participate in adult golf competitions,
- and integrate safely and appropriately within the Club environment.

The policy is intended to:

- promote safe and positive participation,
- support junior development,
- ensure safeguarding and welfare measures are in place,
- and align with guidance from England Golf and The R&A.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- all junior members under the age of 18,
- junior competitions,
- adult club competitions involving junior participants,
- general play and casual golf,
- club officials, volunteers, parents/guardians, coaches, and adult members.



3. General Play

3.1 Principle

The Club supports junior members having appropriate access to the golf course to encourage:

- player development,
- enjoyment of the game,
- integration within the Club,
- and progression into adult membership.

Junior access rights may vary according to a **combination** of factors including:

- age,
- experience,
- competence,
- handicap index,
- maturity,
- Safeguarding and welfare considerations.

General playing rights will be determined by the Junior Organiser and Junior Sub-Committee in consultation with the Captains Committee and Club Safeguarding and Welfare Officer (CSWO).

3.2 Permitted Playing Times

Junior members may play:

- during designated junior times,
- in approved casual play,
- in competitions for which they are eligible,
- and at other times approved by the Club,
- in accordance with the tee time booking policy.

The Club may apply restrictions during:

- peak competition periods,
- busy weekend times,



- corporate events,
- or where course management/maintenance requires.

See appendix A for further details.

3.3 Unsupervised Play

Juniors may play unsupervised where the Club is satisfied that they:

- demonstrate appropriate competence and maturity,
- understand golf etiquette and safety,
- can care for themselves while on the course,
- and have parental/guardian consent where appropriate.

The Club may require younger or less experienced juniors to:

- play with an adult or experienced junior,
- play within junior groups,
- or participate under supervised conditions.

3.4 Playing With Adults

Juniors may play with adult members and guests provided that:

- expected standards of conduct are maintained,
- safeguarding principles are respected,
- and pairings remain appropriate.

The Club encourages inclusive mixed-age golf while recognising the need to avoid situations that may create safeguarding or welfare concerns.

3.5 Access to Club Facilities

Junior members may use designated Club facilities in accordance with Club rules.

The following may apply:



- restricted bar access in line with licensing laws,
- age-related access to locker rooms and changing areas,
- and supervision requirements for younger and less experienced juniors.

3.6 Behaviour Expectations

Junior members are expected to:

- respect the course, facilities, staff, and other players,
- follow golf etiquette and pace-of-play requirements,
- comply with the Club Code of Conduct,
- and behave in a manner consistent with the values of the Club.

Failure to meet expected standards may result in:

- temporary restriction of playing rights,
- disciplinary action,
- or suspension in serious cases.

4. Eligibility for Adult Competitions

Juniors may participate in adult competitions where:

- they hold an active handicap index of a level that meets the entry requirements for the competition,
- demonstrate sufficient golfing ability and maturity,
- parental/guardian consent has been provided,
- and participation complies with this policy.

The Club reserves the right to restrict participation in formats where safeguarding or welfare concerns cannot be adequately managed.

Eligibility will be determined by the Captains Committee (who's decision is final) in consultation with the Competition Sub-Committee, Junior Organiser and Junior Sub-Committee and Club Safeguarding and Welfare Officer (CSWO).

See appendix A for further details.



5. Competitions Covered

Juniors may be permitted to enter:

- Individual competitions (medals, stablefords, bogeys etc)
- mixed gender competitions,
- team competitions/events,
- and selected social competitions.

Juniors will generally not participate in:

- competitions centred primarily around alcohol consumption,
- late-evening social events,
- overnight events without specific safeguarding arrangements,
- or formats deemed unsuitable by the Competition Sub-Committee or Club Safeguarding and Welfare Officer (CSWO).

6. Blind Draw and Random Pairing Competitions

6.1 Safeguarding Principles

The Club recognises that blind draw formats may result in juniors being paired with unfamiliar adults. Appropriate safeguards must therefore be applied.

6.2 Measures

The Club will seek to:

- avoid one-to-one pairings between a junior and a single unrelated adult where reasonably practicable,
- use three or four player groups where possible,
- avoid isolated tee times,
- ensure adults understand expected standards of behaviour,
- and maintain oversight through the Competition Sub-Committee and Club Safeguarding and Welfare Officer (CSWO).



- Introduce additional safeguarding and welfare measures where felt necessary (e.g. including parent or guardian supervision)

6.3 Right to Amend Pairings

The Competition Sub-Committee reserves the right to amend draws or tee times where necessary to support safeguarding or welfare considerations.

7. Standards of Behaviour

All members and visitors are expected to:

- behave respectfully toward juniors and other participants,
- use appropriate language,
- avoid discriminatory, intimidating, abusive, or inappropriate behaviour,
- and comply with the Club Code of Conduct.

Adults participating alongside juniors must:

- maintain appropriate boundaries,
- avoid excessive alcohol consumption when accompanying juniors,
- and avoid unnecessary one-to-one situations.

8. Supervision and Welfare

8.1 Parental Responsibility

Parents/guardians remain responsible for junior members:

- before and after play,
- during transport arrangements,
- and outside formally supervised activities unless otherwise agreed.



8.2 Club Safeguarding and Welfare Officer (CSWO)

The Club shall appoint a Club Safeguarding and Welfare Officer (CSWO). responsible for:

- safeguarding oversight,
- receiving concerns or disclosures,
- supporting junior members,
- and liaising with relevant authorities where necessary.

8.3 Reporting Concerns

Any safeguarding concern involving a junior member should be reported immediately to:

- the Club Safeguarding and Welfare Officer (CSWO),
- a Club official,
- or statutory authorities where appropriate.

9. Transport

Adults should not provide transport to juniors unless:

- parental/guardian consent has been obtained,
- arrangements are transparent,
- and safeguarding guidance is followed.

10. Photography and Social Media

The Club will:

- obtain parental consent where required,
- avoid unnecessary publication of junior personal information,
- and ensure online conduct remains appropriate at all times.



11. Captains Committee and Management Powers

The Club reserves the right to:

- restrict junior playing rights where necessary,
- impose additional safeguards,
- amend competition arrangements,
- or refuse participation where welfare or conduct concerns arise.

12. Review

This policy shall be reviewed annually by:

- the Competition Sub-Committee,
- the Junior Sub-Committee,
- the Club Safeguarding and Welfare Officer (CSWO),
- and the Captains Committee.

Related Documents

- Club Safeguarding Policy
- Club Code of Conduct
- Junior Membership Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy

Guidance Resources

- [England Golf Safeguarding Resources](#)
- [The R&A Safeguarding Guidance](#)
- [NSPCC CPSU Guidance for Sports Clubs](#)



Appendix A

Guidelines

General play

Junior members in the Junior section Gold/Platinum Divisions (handicaps of 28 or less for boys, 36 for girls) can play on the full course unaccompanied.

Junior members with handicaps higher than this must be accompanied by either an adult or another eligible junior member.

Junior members should avoid general play during busy competition times e.g. Weekends before 2pm, Wednesday afternoons (club day), Thursday mornings (women's comp day).

Competition play

All juniors are welcome to participate in junior club-night on Tuesdays. The course is typically reserved exclusively for juniors from 3.30pm to 6.30pm (April to September).

Juniors are also welcome to participate in adult club competitions provided they hold the minimum handicap required to be eligible.

This is typically a minimum course handicap of 28 for men's Saturday comps and match-plays (noting that some major competitions have a cap of 18) or a WHS handicap for Sunday, Wednesday (club day) and Thursday (women's) comps. Where exceptions to this guidance are made by the competition sub-committee, playing handicaps will be capped to the maximum allowance for that competition.

Juniors must be accompanied by either an adult player or an experienced junior player (aged 16 years or over with a handicap index of 9.4 or below) in all adult competitions.

On the limited occasions where adult competitions have a limited field (e.g. Peel Town Cup and Shotgun starts), priority will typically be provided to adult players. Junior participation is also welcome subject to availability and previous suitable adult competition experience e.g. it is expected that junior players participate and gain experience in other adult men's competitions off white tees before playing in a 36-hole medal event such as the Peel Town Cup.