



Child Safe Statement and Risk Management Policy for Junior Golf Lessons

Child Safe Policy Statement

The Berri Golf Club is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people accessing our Junior Golf Program.

We support the rights of the child and will act without hesitation to ensure a child-safe environment is maintained at all times.

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

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 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 to the club's Child Safety Officer (Lynn Smith).

Potential risk areas

- A child being coached alone without another adult sight:
Very low risk as all our coaching is in group situation with other children, coaches and parents present.
- A child being spoken to by an adult in an inappropriate way:
Low risk as all our coaching is in group situation with other children, coaches and parents present.
- A child being in an area alone with one adult:
Low risk as all our coaching is in group situation with other children, coaches and parents present.
- A photo taken by another parent of their child with another child in the background:
Possible – parents and volunteers are advised that this may not be appropriate especially with regards to posts on social media. Our Social Media Policy is available for all to see on the club website www.berrigolf.com.au
- A child not picked up after golf lessons:
Low risk as parents usually remain with their children during coaching. If this occurs coaching staff will contact the parent and remain with the child until the parent arrives.

These are all low risk situations as most parents stay with their children so there are many adults at the lessons.

Relevant History Checks

DCSI checks are required for those volunteers/staff who are in direct contact with children especially in a one-to-one environment (which is not usually the case). These can be obtained online at: <https://screening.sa.gov.au> . The club does not retain a copy of the DCSI check but records that it has been provided.

Recruitment and Training of coaching volunteers

Coaches must be members of the club in good standing.

Volunteers may be called for by the committee or interested members may approach the committee expressing their interest. The member 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.

- Coaches are encouraged to engage in online training through Ausport at: <https://pbtr.ausport.gov.au/auth/login> .
- The Club promotes the "Play by the Rules" principles: <https://www.playbytherules.net.au>

- Coaches are encouraged to undertake Community Instructor training online at: <https://www.golf.org.au/community-instructors>

Further training and supervision is provided by a visiting PGA Professional, Anne-Marie Knight of West Beach Golf Academy, who reviews the program and advises coaching staff on new or additional skills that may be used on a regular basis several times a year.

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 Lynn Smith, 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.

Review of Policy

The Committee reviews all policies annually as part of its Governance requirements.