



GolfAustralia

MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

VERSION 5
Updated August 2015

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PREFACE

Golf Australia Limited ('GA') was created to establish national unity through which to encourage, conduct and promote golf throughout Australia and in the Member States. This Policy is made for the purpose of governing the conduct and administration of the sport of golf in Australia, and to promote the objectives of GA in its Statement of Purposes and Rules ('the Constitution').

GA is committed to provide an environment that is safe for children, free from harassment and abuse for everyone, and promotes respectful and positive behaviour and values.

This Policy provides a Code of Conduct forming the basis of appropriate and ethical conduct which everyone must abide by.

This Policy is an essential part of GA's proactive and preventative approach to tackling inappropriate behaviour.

The Board and Chief Executive Officer of GA are committed to ensuring that everyone associated with the organisation complies with the Policy.

THIS POLICY WAS UPDATED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF GOLF AUSTRALIA ON 21 AUGUST 2015.

Signed by the Chairman:
John Hopkins

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hopkins".

Signed by the CEO:
Stephen Pitt

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Pitt".

PART A: NATIONAL MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

1. Introduction

Golf Australia (GA) is committed to participation in all aspects of the sport of golf in an environment that respects the worth, dignity and equality of opportunity of all people.

GA is committed to the advancement of participation in playing, coaching, administering and working in organisations devoted to golf, based on merit and equal opportunity. GA intends, by this Policy, to ensure that in all their dealings members shall be treated fairly, with respect, and in a manner appropriate to their innate worth and dignity as human beings, and that members shall advance in their chosen field on the basis of merit and achievement, fairly recognised.

GA is committed to providing an environment in which all members feel free to participate and considers that it is sometimes proper to make special provision for disadvantaged groups, and to establish special programs designed to enable their members to overcome any disadvantage and participate in the community on conditions of equality.

2. Purpose of this policy

This Golf Australia National Member Protection Policy ("policy") aims to assist Golf Australia to uphold its core values and create a safe, fair and inclusive environment for everyone associated with our sport. It sets out our commitment to ensure that every person involved in our sport is treated with respect and dignity and protected from discrimination, harassment and abuse. It also ensures that everyone involved in our sport is aware of their legal and ethical rights and responsibilities, as well as the standards of behaviour expected of them.

The policy attachments describe the practical steps we will take to eliminate discrimination, harassment, child abuse and other forms of inappropriate behaviour from our sport. As part of this commitment, Golf Australia will take disciplinary action against any person or organisation bound by this policy if they breach it.

This policy has been endorsed by the Golf Australia Board and has been incorporated into our By-Laws. The policy commenced on 10th January 2006 and was reviewed on 18th January 2010, 23rd March 2012, 18th February 2014 and 21st October 2015. This policy will operate until replaced.

The current policy and its attachments can be obtained from our website at: www.golf.org.au

For information on the rights, responsibilities and requirements for people involved in golf at the state and club level please refer to the member protection policies of the relevant state association or club.

3. Who is bound by this policy

This policy applies to the following people, whether they are in a paid or unpaid/voluntary capacity:

- 3.1 persons appointed or elected to Golf Australia boards, committees and sub-committees;
- 3.2 employees of Golf Australia;
- 3.3 members of the Golf Australia Executive;
- 3.4 support personnel, including managers, physiotherapists, psychologists, masseurs, sports trainers and others;
- 3.5 Golf Australia appointed coaches and assistant coaches;
- 3.6 Golf Australia representative players
- 3.7 referees, match and other officials involved in the regulation of the sport;
- 3.8 members, including life members of Golf Australia;
- 3.9 athletes, coaches, officials and other personnel participating in events and activities, including camps and training sessions, held or sanctioned by Golf Australia;
- 3.10 any other person including spectators, parents/guardians and sponsors, who or which agrees in writing (whether on a ticket, entry form or otherwise) to be bound by this policy.

This policy will continue to apply to a person, even after they have stopped their association or employment with Golf Australia, if disciplinary action against that person has commenced.

4. Organisational responsibilities

Golf Australia and Member Associations must:

- 4.1 adopt, implement and comply with this policy;
- 4.2 ensure that the Constitution, By-laws or other rules and policies include the necessary clauses for this policy to be enforceable;
- 4.3 publish, distribute and promote this policy and the consequences of any breaches;
- 4.4 promote and model appropriate standards of behaviour at all times;
- 4.5 deal with any breaches or complaints made under this policy in an appropriate confidential manner;
- 4.6 deal with any breaches of this policy in an appropriate manner;
- 4.7 recognise and enforce any penalty imposed under this policy;
- 4.8 ensure that a copy of this policy is available or accessible to the persons and associations to whom this policy applies;
- 4.9 use appropriately trained people to receive and manage complaints and allegations (e.g. Member Protection Information Officers (MPIOs);
- 4.10 monitor and review this policy at least annually.

5. Individual responsibilities

Individuals bound by this policy must:

- 5.1 make themselves aware of the contents of this policy;
- 5.2 comply with all relevant provisions of the policy, including any codes of conduct and the steps for making a complaint or reporting possible child abuse set out in this policy
- 5.3 consent to our screening requirements and any state/territory Working with Children Checks if the person holds or applies for a role that involves regular unsupervised contact with a child or young person under the age of 18 or where otherwise required by law;
- 5.4 place the safety and welfare of children above other considerations;
- 5.5 be accountable for their behaviour; and
- 5.6 comply with any decisions and/or disciplinary measures imposed under this policy.

6. Position Statements

6.1 Child Protection

Golf Australia is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people who participate in our sport and access our services. We support the rights of the child and will act at all times to ensure that a child safe environment is maintained.

We acknowledge the valuable contribution made by our staff, members and volunteers and we encourage their active participation in providing a safe, fair and inclusive environment for all participants.

6.1.1: Identify and analyse risk of harm

We will develop and implement a risk management strategy, including a review of our existing child protection practices, to determine how child-safe and child-friendly our organisation is and to identify any additional steps we can take to minimise and prevent risk of harm to children because of the action of an employee, volunteer or another person.

6.1.2: Develop codes of behavior

We will develop and promote a code of behaviour that sets out the conduct we expect of adults when they deal and interact with children involved in our sport, especially those in our care. We will also implement a code of behaviour to address appropriate conduct between children.

These codes will clearly describe the professional boundaries, ethical behaviour and unacceptable behaviour. (Refer to the attachments in Part B of this policy)

6.1.3: Choose suitable employees and volunteers

We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that our organisation engages suitable and appropriate people to work with children, especially those in positions that involve regular unsupervised contact with children. This will include using a range of screening measures.

We will ensure that Working with Children Checks are conducted for all employees and volunteers who work with children, where an assessment is required by law. If a criminal history report is obtained as part of their screening process, we will handle this information confidentially and in accordance with the relevant legal requirements (Refer to the attachments in Part C of this policy.)

6.1.4: Support, train, supervise and enhance performance

We will ensure that all our employees and volunteers who work with children have ongoing supervision, support and training. Our goal is to develop their skills and capacity and to enhance their performance so we can maintain a child-safe environment.

6.1.5: Empower and promote the participation of children

We will encourage children and young people to be involved in developing and maintaining child-safe environment for our sport.

6.1.6: Report and respond appropriately to suspected abuse and neglect

We will ensure that all our employees and volunteers are able to identify and respond appropriately to children at risk of harm and that they are aware of their responsibilities under state laws to make a report if they suspect on reasonable grounds that a child has been, or is being, abused or neglected. (Refer to the attachments in Part E of this policy.)

Further, if any person believes that another person or organization bound by this policy is acting inappropriately towards a child, or is in breach of this policy, he or she may make an internal complaint to us. (Refer to the attachments in Part D of this policy)

6.2 Taking Images of Children

Images of children can be used inappropriately or illegally. Golf Australia requires that individuals and associations, wherever possible, obtain permission from a child's parent/guardian before taking an image of a child that is not their own. They should also make sure the parent/guardian understands how the image will be used.

To respect people's privacy, we do not allow camera phones, videos and cameras to be used inside changing areas, showers and toilets which we control or are used in connection with our sport.

When using a photo of a child, we will not name or identify the child or publish personal information, such as residential address, email address or telephone number, without the consent of the parent/guardian. We will not display information about a child's hobbies, interests, school or the like, as this can be used by pedophiles or other persons to "groom" a child.

We will only use images of children that are relevant to our sport and we will ensure that they are suitably clothed in a manner that promotes participation in the sport. We will seek permission from the parents/guardians of the children before using these images. We require our member associations and clubs to do likewise.

6.3 Anti-Discrimination and harassment

Golf Australia is committed to providing an environment in which people are treated fairly and equitably and that is, as far as practicable, free from all forms of discrimination and where all those involved in our activities and events are treated with respect.

We recognise that people cannot participate, enjoy themselves or perform at their best if they are treated unfairly, discriminated against or harassed.

6.3.1 Discrimination Unlawful discrimination involves the less favourable treatment of a person on the basis of one or more of the personal characteristics protected by state or federal anti-discrimination laws.

The personal characteristics protected by anti-discrimination laws include attributes such as race, age, disability, gender and race. The full list of protected personal characteristics is in the “Definitions” set out in the Dictionary of Terms.

Discrimination can be either direct or indirect.

- **Direct** discrimination occurs if a person treats, or proposes to treat, a person with a protected personal characteristic unfavourably because of that personal characteristic.
- **Indirect** discrimination occurs if a person imposes, or proposes to impose, a requirement, condition or practice that will disadvantage a person with a protected personal characteristic and that requirement, condition or practice is not reasonable.

For the purposes of determining discrimination, the offender’s awareness and motive are irrelevant.

6.3.2 Harassment

Harassment is any unwelcome conduct, verbal or physical, that intimidates, offends or humiliates another person and which happens because a person has a certain personal characteristic protected by State or Federal anti-discrimination legislation.

The offensive behaviour does not have to take place a number of times, a single incident can constitute harassment.

Sexual harassment is one type of harassment. Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct, remarks or innuendo of a sexual nature. It covers a wide range of behaviours and can be verbal, written, visual or physical. Sexual harassment is not limited to members of the opposite sex.

6.3.3 Prohibition against discrimination and harassment

We prohibit all forms of harassment and discrimination based on the personal characteristics listed in the “Definitions” set out in the Dictionary of Terms [see clause 10].

Any person who believes they are being, or have been, harassed or discriminated against by another person or organisation bound by this policy is encouraged to raise their concerns with us. A person may make an internal complaint, and in some circumstances, they may also be able to make a complaint to an external organisation. (Refer to the attachments in Part D of this policy.) We prohibit all forms of harassment, discrimination and bullying based on the personal characteristics listed in the “Definitions” set out in our Dictionary of Terms (see clause 10). In most circumstances, this behaviour is against the law.

If any person feels they are being harassed or discriminated against by another person or organisation bound by this policy, they may make an internal complaint. In some circumstances, they may also be able to make a complaint to an external organisation. (Refer to the attachments in Part D of this policy).

6.4 Intimate Relationships

Golf Australia understands that consensual intimate relationships (including, but not limited to sexual relationships) between coaches or officials and adult athletes may take place legally. However, this policy will help ensure that the expectations of coaches or officials are clear and, to ensure that if an intimate relationship does exist or develop between a coach or official and an adult athlete, that relationship will be managed in an appropriate manner.

Coaches and officials are required to conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner in all interactions with athletes. In particular, they must ensure that they treat athletes in a respectful and fair manner, and that they do not engage in sexual harassment, bullying, favoritism or exploitation.

We take the position that consensual intimate relationships between coaches or officials and the adult athletes they coach should be avoided as they can have harmful effects on the athlete involved, on other athletes and coaches and on the sport's public image. These relationships can also be perceived to be exploitative due to the differences in authority, power, maturity, status, influence and dependence between the coach or official and the athlete.

We recommend that if an athlete attempts to initiate an intimate relationship with a coach or official, the coach or official should discourage the athlete's approach and explain to the athlete why such a relationship is not appropriate.

If a consensual intimate relationship does exist or develop between an adult athlete and a coach or official, the coach or official is expected to ensure that the relationship is appropriate and that it does not compromise impartiality, professional standards or the relationship of trust the coach or official has with the athlete and/or other athletes.

In assessing the appropriateness of an intimate relationship between a coach or official and an adult athlete, relevant factors include, but are not limited to:

- the relative age and social maturity of the athlete;
- any potential vulnerability of the athlete;
- any financial and/or emotional dependence of the athlete on the coach or official;
- the ability of the coach or official to influence the progress, outcomes or progression of the athlete's performance and/or career;
- the extent of power imbalance between the athlete and coach or official; and
- the likelihood of the relationship having an adverse impact on the athlete and/or other athletes.

It will often be difficult for a coach or official involved in an intimate relationship with an adult athlete to make an objective assessment of its appropriateness and accordingly they are encouraged to seek advice from the Golf Australia Member Protection Information Officer to ensure that they have not involved themselves in inappropriate or unprofessional conduct.

If it is determined that an intimate relationship between a coach or official and an adult athlete is inappropriate or unprofessional we may take disciplinary action against the coach or official up to and including dismissal. Action may also be taken to stop the coaching relationship with the athlete. This could include a transfer, a request for resignation or dismissal from coaching duties.

If a coach, official or athlete believes they are being, or have been, harassed they are encouraged to seek information and support from the Golf Australia Member Protection Information Officer. Our complaints procedure is outlined in Part D of this policy.

6.5 Pregnancy

Golf Australia is committed to treating pregnant women fairly and removing any unreasonable barriers to their full participation in our sport. We will not tolerate any discrimination or harassment against pregnant women.

Golf Australia will take reasonable care to ensure the safety, health and well-being of pregnant women. We will advise pregnant women that there may be risks involved in their ongoing participation in sport, and we will encourage them to obtain medical advice about those risks. Pregnant women should be aware that their own health and well-being, and that of their unborn child, is of utmost importance in their decision-making about the extent they choose to participate in our sport.

We encourage all pregnant women to talk with their medical advisers, make themselves aware of the facts about pregnancy in sport and ensure that they make informed decisions about their

participation in our sport. Pregnant women should make these decisions themselves, in consultation with their medical advisers and in discussion with Golf Australia.

We will only require pregnant women to sign a disclaimer in relation to their participation in our sport while they are pregnant if all other participants are required to sign one in similar circumstances. We will not require women to undertake a pregnancy test.

If a pregnant woman feels she is being, or has been, harassed or discriminated against by another person or organisation bound by this Policy, she may make a complaint. (Refer to the attachments in Part D of this policy.)

6.6 Gender Identity

Gender identity means the gender-related identity, appearance or mannerisms or other gender-related characteristics of a person. This includes the way people express or present their gender and recognises that a person's gender identity may be an identity other than male or female. Some terms used to describe a person's gender identity include trans, transgender and gender diverse.

6.6.1 Gender identity discrimination and harassment

Federal, state and territory anti-discrimination laws provide protection from discrimination against people on the basis of their gender identity. (See definition in Dictionary of terms).

Golf Australia is committed to providing a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment all where people can contribute and participate. We will not tolerate any unlawful discrimination or harassment of a person because of their gender identity.

All persons, regardless of gender identity, are entitled to be treated fairly and with dignity and respect at all times. We will not tolerate any unlawful discrimination or harassment of a person because of their gender identity. This includes discrimination or harassment of a person who is transgender or transsexual, who is assumed to be transgender or transsexual or has an association with someone who has or is assumed to be transgender or transsexual. (Refer to the attachments in Part D of this policy.)

We expect all people bound by this policy to act with sensitivity when a person is undergoing gender transition/affirmation.

If any person believes that they are being, or have been, harassed or discriminated against by another person or organisation bound by this policy because of their gender identity, they may make a complaint.

6.6.2 Participation in sport

Golf Australia recognises that excluding people from participating in sporting events and activities because of their gender identity may have significant implications for their health, wellbeing and involvement in community life. We are committed to supporting participation in our sport on the basis of the gender with which a person identifies.

If issues of performance advantage arise, we will consider whether the established discrimination exceptions for participation in sport are relevant in the circumstances. Discrimination is unlawful unless an exception applies.

Golf Australia is aware that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has established criteria for selection and participation in the Olympic Games. Where a transgender person intends to compete at an elite level, we will encourage them to obtain advice about the IOC's criteria which may differ from the position we have taken.

Drug testing procedures and prohibitions also apply to people who identify as transgender. A person receiving treatment involving a Prohibited Substance or Method, as described on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List, should apply for a standard Therapeutic Use Exemption.

6.6.3. Intersex status

Federal anti-discrimination law, and some state and territory anti-discrimination laws, provide protection from discrimination against a person on the basis of their intersex status. (See Dictionary of terms).

Golf Australia is committed to providing a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment where all people can contribute and participate. We will not tolerate any unlawful discrimination or harassment of a person because of their intersex status.

Golf Australia has its own Gender Policy for male to female transgendered persons only. The Gender Policy is available on the website.

6.7 Responsible service and consumption of alcohol

Golf Australia is committed to conducting sporting and social events in a manner that promotes the responsible service and consumption of alcohol. We also recommend that State Associations and member clubs follow strict guidelines regarding the service and consumption of alcohol.

In general, our policy is that:

- alcohol should not be available or consumed at sporting events involving children and young people under the age of 18
- alcohol-free events will be provided for young people and families
- food and low-alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks will be available at events we hold or endorse where alcohol is served
- a committee member will be present at events we hold or endorse where alcohol is served to ensure appropriate practices are followed
- safe transport options will be promoted as part of any event we hold or endorse where alcohol is served.

6.8 Smoke free environment

Golf Australia is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment at all sporting and social events that we hold or endorse.

In general our policy is that:

- no smoking should occur at or near sporting events involving young children and young people under the age of 18. This policy shall apply to coaches, players, trainers, officials and volunteers;
- social events shall be smoke free, with smoking permitted at designated outdoor smoking areas;
- coaches, officials, trainers, volunteers and players will refrain from smoking and remain smoke-free while they are involved in an official capacity in our sport, both on and off the field.

6.9 Bullying

Golf Australia is committed to providing an environment that is free from bullying. We understand that bullying has the potential to result in significant negative consequences for an individual's health and wellbeing, and we regard bullying in all forms as unacceptable in our sport.

Bullying is characterised by repeated, unreasonable behaviour directed at a person, or group of persons, that creates a risk to health and safety. Bullying behaviour is that which a reasonable person in the circumstances would expect to victimise, humiliate, undermine, threaten, degrade, offend or intimidate a person. Bullying behaviour can include actions of an individual or a group.

Whilst generally characterised by repeated behaviours, one-off instances can amount to bullying.

The following types of behaviour, where repeated or occurring as part of a pattern of behaviour, would be considered bullying:

- verbal abuse including shouting, swearing, teasing, making belittling remarks or persistent unjustified criticism;
- excluding or isolating a group or person;
- spreading malicious rumours; or
- psychological harassment such as intimidation.

Bullying includes cyber-bulling which occurs through the use of technology. New technologies and communication tools, such as smart phones and social networking websites, have greatly increased the potential for people to be bullied through unwanted and inappropriate comments. Golf Australia will not tolerate abusive, discriminatory, intimidating or offensive statements being made online. Frustration at a referee, teammate, coach or sporting body should never be communicated on social networking websites. These issues should instead be addressed – in a written or verbal statement or a complaint – to the relevant controlling club, league or peak sporting body.

If any person believes they are being, or have been, bullied by another person or organisation bound by this policy, he or she may make a complaint. (Refer to the attachments in Part D of this policy.)

6.10 Social networking sites

Golf Australia acknowledges the enormous value of social networking to promote our sport and celebrate the achievements and success of the people involved in our sport.

Social networking refers to any interactive website or technology that enables people to communicate and/or share content via the internet. This includes social networking websites such as Facebook and Twitter.

We expect all people bound by this policy to conduct themselves appropriately when using social networking sites to share information related to our sport.

In particular, social media activity including, but not limited to, postings, blogs, status updates, and tweets:

- must not contain material which is, or has the potential to be, offensive, aggressive, defamatory, threatening, discriminatory, obscene, profane, harassing, embarrassing, intimidating, sexually explicit, bullying, hateful, racist, sexist or otherwise inappropriate;
- must not contain material which is inaccurate, misleading or fraudulent;
- must not contain material which is in breach of laws, court orders, undertakings or contracts;
- should respect and maintain the privacy of others; and
- should promote the sport in a positive way.

7. Complaints procedures

7.1 Handling complaints

Golf Australia aims to provide a simple, confidential and trustworthy procedure for resolving complaints based on the principles of procedural fairness.

Any person (a complainant) may report a complaint about a person, people or organisation bound by this policy (respondent) if they feel they have been harassed, bullied or discriminated against or there has been any other breach of this policy.

In the first instance, complaints should be reported to the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliate Member or the respective Affiliate Member Clubs.

If a complaint relates to behaviour or an incident that occurred at the:

- state level, or involves people operating at the state level, then the complaint should be reported to and handled by the relevant state association in the first instance
- club level, or involves people operating at the club level, then the complaint should be reported to and handled by the relevant club in the first instance.

Only matters that relate to, or which occurred at, the national level, as well as serious cases referred from the state and club level, should be dealt with by the national body.

A complaint may be handled informally or formally. The complainant will usually indicate his or her preferred option and the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliate Member or the respective Affiliate Member Clubs should consider whether that is an appropriate way to handle the complaint. For example, the law may require that the complaint/allegation be reported to an appropriate authority.

All complaints will be dealt with promptly, seriously, sensitively and confidentially. Our procedures for handling and resolving complaints are outlined in attachment D1.

Individuals and organisations may also seek to have their complaint handled by an external agency under anti-discrimination, child protection, criminal or other relevant legislation.

7.2 Improper complaints & victimisation

Golf Australia aims to ensure that our complaints procedure has integrity and is free of unfair repercussions or victimisation against the person making the complaint.

We will take all necessary steps to make sure that people involved in a complaint are not victimised. Disciplinary measures can be imposed on anyone who harasses or victimises another person for making a complaint or supporting another person's complaint.

If at any point in the complaint handling process the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliate Member or the respective Affiliate Member Clubs considers that a complainant has knowingly made an untrue complaint, or the complaint is malicious or intended to cause distress to the respondent, the matter may be in writing to the Golf Australia CEO for review and appropriate action, including possible disciplinary action against the complainant.

7.3 Mediation

Golf Australia aims to resolve complaints quickly and fairly. Complaints may be resolved by agreement between the people involved with no need for disciplinary action.

Mediation is a confidential process that allows those involved in a complaint to discuss the issues or incident in question and come up with mutually agreed solutions. It may occur before or after the investigation of a complaint.

If a complainant wishes to resolve the complaint with the help of a mediator, the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliate Member or the respective Affiliate Member Clubs will, in consultation with the complainant, arrange for an independent mediator where possible. We will not allow lawyers to negotiate on behalf of the complainant and/or the respondent.

More information on the mediation process is outlined in Attachment D2.

7.4 Tribunals

A Tribunal may be convened to hear a formal complaint:

- referred to it by the CEO of Golf Australia;
- referred to it or escalated by a Member Association because of the serious nature of the complaint or inability to be resolved at the state level; and/or
- for an alleged breach of this policy.

Our Tribunal procedure is outlined in Attachment D4

A respondent may only lodge an appeal to the Appeal Tribunal in respect of a Tribunal decision. The decision of the Appeal Tribunal is final and binding on the people involved. Our appeals process is outlined in Attachment D4.

Every organisation bound by this policy will recognise and enforce any decision of a Disciplinary Committee or Appeal Tribunal under this policy.

8. What is a breach of this policy?

It is a breach of this policy for any person or organisation bound by this policy to do anything contrary to this policy, including but not limited to:

- 8.1 breaching the codes of behaviour (see Part B of this policy);
- 8.2 bringing the sport and/or Golf Australia into disrepute, or acting in a manner likely to bring the sport and/or Golf Australia into disrepute;
- 8.3 failing to follow Golf Australia policies (including this policy) and our procedures for the protection, safety and well-being of children;
- 8.4 discriminating against, harassing or bullying (including cyber bullying) any person;
- 8.5 victimising another person for making or supporting a complaint;
- 8.6 engaging in an inappropriate intimate relationship with a person that he or she supervises, or has influence, authority or power over;
- 8.7 verbally or physically assaulting another person, intimidating another person or creating a hostile environment within the sport;
- 8.8 disclosing to any unauthorised person or organisation any Golf Australia information that is of a private, confidential or privileged nature;
- 8.9 making a complaint they know to be untrue, vexatious, malicious or improper;
- 8.10 failing to comply with a penalty imposed after a finding that the individual or organisation has breached this policy; or
- 8.11 failing to comply with a direction given to the individual or organisation as part of the disciplinary process.

9. Disciplinary measures

Golf Australia may impose disciplinary measures on an individual or organisation for a breach of this policy.

Any disciplinary measure imposed will be:

- fair and reasonable;
- applied consistent with any contractual and employment rules and requirements;
- based on the evidence and information presented and the seriousness of the breach; and
- determined in accordance with our Constitution, By Laws, this policy and/or Rules of the sport.

9.1 Individual

Subject to contractual and employment requirements, if a finding is made by a Tribunal that an individual has breached this policy, one or more of the following forms of discipline may be imposed:

- 9.1.1 a direction that the individual make a verbal and/or written apology;
- 9.1.2 a written warning;
- 9.1.3 a direction that the individual attend counselling to address their behaviour;
- 9.1.4 a withdrawal of any awards, scholarships, placing, records, achievements bestowed in any tournaments, activities or events held or sanctioned by Golf Australia;
- 9.1.5 a demotion or transfer of the individual to another location, role or activity;
- 9.1.6 a suspension of the individual's membership or participation or engagement in a role or activity;
- 9.1.7 termination of the individual's membership, appointment or engagement;

- 9.1.8 a recommendation that Golf Australia terminate the individual's membership, appointment or engagement;
- 9.1.9 in the case of a coach or official, a direction that the relevant organisation de-register the accreditation of the coach or official for a period of time or permanently;
- 9.1.10 a fine;
- 9.1.11 any other form of discipline that the Tribunal considers appropriate.

9.2 Organisation

If a finding is made that a Member Association or Associated Club has breached its own or this Member Protection Policy, one or more of the following forms of discipline may be imposed by the relevant Tribunal:

- 9.2.1 a written warning;
- 9.2.2 a fine;
- 9.2.3 a direction that any rights, privileges and benefits provided to that organisation by the national body or other peak association be suspended for a specified period;
- 9.2.4 a direction that any funding granted or given to it by Golf Australia cease from a specified date;
- 9.2.5 a direction that Golf Australia cease to sanction events held by or under the auspices of that organisation;
- 9.2.6 a recommendation to Golf Australia that its membership of Golf Australia be suspended or terminated in accordance with the relevant constitution or rules; and/or
- 9.2.7 any other form of discipline that the national body or peak organisation considers to be reasonable and appropriate.

9.3 Factors to consider

The form of discipline to be imposed on an individual or organisation will depend on factors such as:

- the nature and seriousness of the breach;
- if the person knew, or should have known, that the behaviour was a breach of the policy;
- the person's level of contrition;
- the effect of the proposed disciplinary measures on the person including any personal, professional or financial consequences;
- if there have been relevant prior warnings or disciplinary action;
- the ability to enforce disciplinary measures if the person is a parent or spectator (even if they are bound by the policy); and/or
- any other mitigating circumstances.

10. Dictionary of terms

This Dictionary sets out the meaning of words used in this policy and its attachments without limiting the ordinary and natural meaning of the words. Further detail or definitions that are specific to different states or Territories can be sourced from the relevant child protection authorities or equal opportunity and anti-discrimination commissions.

Abuse is the violation of an individual's human or civil rights through the act or actions of another person or persons. Types of abuse include physical abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, sexual abuse, constraints and restrictive practices, financial abuse, legal or civil abuse and systemic abuse.

Affiliated Member means those states, territories and other organisations affiliated with Golf Australia.

Affiliate Member Clubs means those clubs affiliated with Golf Australia's Affiliated Members.

Child means a person who is under the age of 18 years

Child abuse involves conduct which puts a child at risk of harm and may include:

- **physical abuse**, which occurs when a child has suffered, or is at risk of suffering, non-accidental physical trauma or injury. This may include, but is not limited to, hitting, shaking

or other physical harm; giving a child alcohol or drugs; or training that exceeds the child's development or maturity.

- **sexual abuse**, which occurs when an adult, other child, or adolescent uses their power or authority to involve a child in a sexual activity or any other inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature (e.g. sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, pornography, including child pornography, or inappropriate touching or conversations).
- **emotional abuse**, which occurs when a child's social, emotional, cognitive or intellectual development is impaired or threatened. Emotional abuse can include, but is not limited to, emotional deprivation due to persistent rejection or criticism, hostility, teasing/bullying, humiliation, taunting, sarcasm, yelling, name-calling or placing unrealistic expectations on a child.
- **neglect**, which occurs when a child's basic necessities of life are not met and their health and development are affected. Basic needs include food, water, shelter, adequate clothing, personal hygiene, timely provision of medical treatment and adequate supervision

Complaint means a complaint made under clause 7 of this policy.

Complainant means a person making a complaint.

Complaint handler/manager means a person appointed under this policy to investigate a Complaint

Discrimination occurs when someone is treated (or is proposed to be treated) unfairly or less favourably than another person in the same or similar circumstances because of one of the personal characteristics covered by anti-discrimination laws. This is known as direct discrimination. Indirect discrimination occurs when there is (or is proposed) an unreasonable requirement, condition or practice that seems to treat everyone equally, but which has or is likely to have the effect of disadvantaging persons with a personal characteristic covered by anti-discrimination laws.

In Australia, it is against the law to discriminate against someone because of:

- age
- sex or gender
- gender identity
- intersex status
- race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, nationality, ethno-religious origin, immigration
- disability, mental and physical impairment
- family/carer responsibilities, status as a parent or carer
- marital status
- pregnancy, potential pregnancy, breastfeeding
- sexual orientation and gender identity
- physical features
- irrelevant medical record
- irrelevant criminal record, spent convictions
- political beliefs or activities
- religion, religious beliefs or activities
- national extraction or social origin
- lawful sexual activity
- profession, trade, occupation or calling
- member of association or organisation of employees or employers, industrial activity, trade union activity
- defence service
- personal association with someone who has, or is assumed to have, any of the above characteristics

Examples of discrimination are available on the Play by the Rules website:

www.playbytherules.net.au/legal-stuff/discrimination

Some exceptions to state, territory and federal anti-discrimination law apply, including exceptions for sporting activities, such as:

- holding a competitive sporting activity for a specific age or age group (e.g. only those who are under the age of 15 years);
- excluding people on the basis of their 'excluding people on the basis of their sex and/or gender identity status from participation in a competitive sporting activity where the strength, stamina or physique of competitors is relevant to the specific activity (note that this does not apply to activity by children who are under the age of 12 years); and
- not selecting a participant if the person's disability means he or she is not reasonably capable of

Harassment is any type of unwelcome behaviour which has the effect of offending, humiliating or intimidating the person harassed. Unlawful harassment can be based on any of the personal characteristics covered by anti-discrimination law, such as a person's race, sex, pregnancy, marital status or sexual orientation (see the list under "Discrimination").

Public acts of racial hatred which are reasonably likely to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate are also prohibited. This applies to spectators, participants or any other person who engages in such an act in public. Some states and territories also prohibit public acts that vilify people on other grounds such as homosexuality, gender identity, HIV/AIDS, religion and disability (see also "Vilification").

Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) means a person appointed by us to be the first point of contact for a person reporting an issue or a complaint under, or a breach of, this policy.

Procedural fairness requires that:

- the respondent knows the full details of what is being said against him or her and they have the opportunity to respond;
- no person may judge their own case; and
- the decision-maker(s) must be unbiased, fair and just.

Police check means a national criminal history record check conducted as a pre-employment, pre-engagement or current employment background check on a person.

Policy, policy and this policy means this Member Protection Policy.

Respondent means the person whose behaviour is the subject of the complaint.

Role-specific codes of conduct (or behaviour) means standards of conduct required of people holding certain roles in our organisation (e.g. coaches, officials, umpires).

Sexual harassment means unwelcome behaviour of a sexual nature which could reasonably be expected to make a person feel humiliated, intimidated or offended. Sexual harassment can take many different forms and may include unwelcome physical contact, verbal comments, jokes, propositions, displays of pornographic or offensive material or other behaviour that creates a sexually hostile environment. Sexual harassment does not have to be intentional.

Sexual offence means a criminal offence involving sexual activity or acts of indecency. Because of differences under state and territory laws, this can include but is not limited to:

- rape
- indecent assault
- sexual assault
- assault with intent to have sexual intercourse
- Incest
- sexual penetration of child under the age of 16
- indecent act with child under the age of 16
- sexual relationship with child under the age of 16
- sexual offences against people with impaired mental functioning

- abduction and detention
- procuring sexual penetration by threats or fraud
- procuring sexual penetration of child under the age of 16
- bestiality
- soliciting acts of sexual penetration or indecent acts
- promoting or engaging in acts of child prostitution
- obtaining benefits from child prostitution
- possession of child pornography
- publishing child pornography and indecent articles.

Transgender 'Transgender' is an umbrella term that refers to a person whose gender identity is different to their physical sex as recorded at birth. Transitioning refers to the process where a transgender person commences living as a member of another sex. This is sometimes referred to as the person 'affirming' their gender because transitioning means they start living in what they identify as their true gender. For people who are transitioning/affirming their gender, having their identity fully recognised in all areas of life is a crucial part of the experience of living as their affirmed gender.

Sexual orientation: The term 'sexual orientation' refers to a person's emotional or sexual attraction to another person, including, amongst others, the following identities: heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, asexual or same-sex attracted.

Gender identity: The term 'gender identity' refers to a person's deeply held internal and individual sense of gender.

Gender expression: The term 'gender expression' refers to the way in which a person externally expresses their gender or how they are perceived by others.

Intersex: The term 'intersex' refers to people who have genetic, hormonal or physical characteristics that are not exclusively 'male' or 'female'. A person who is intersex may identify as male, female, intersex or as being of indeterminate sex.

Victimisation means treating someone unfairly or unfavorably, or threatening to do so, because that person has, or intends to, pursue their right to make any complaint, including a complaint under government legislation (e.g. anti-discrimination legislation) or under this policy, or for supporting another person to make complaint.

Vilification means behaviour that occurs in public which incites hatred towards, serious contempt for, or revulsion or severe ridicule of a person or group of people because that person or persons have a particular personal characteristic. Anti-discrimination laws in Australia make it unlawful to vilify a person or group of persons on the basis of race, religion, homosexuality, transgender status and HIV/AIDS status.

PART B: CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

We seek to provide a safe, fair and inclusive environment for everyone involved in our organisation and in our sport.

To achieve this, we require certain standards of behavior of players/athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, parents/guardians (of child participants) and spectators.

Our codes of behaviour are underpinned by the following core values.

- To act within the rules and spirit of our sport.
- To display respect and courtesy towards everyone involved in our sport and prevent discrimination and harassment.
- To prioritise the safety and well-being of children and young people involved in our sport.
- To encourage and support opportunities for participation in all aspects of our sport.

Attachment B1: Player/Caddie Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to amateur golfers and caddies, in all Championships, major activities, events and competitions conducted by GA or its Member Associations in addition to any other requirements of Players and Caddies as set out in tournament conditions, local rules or by-laws of clubs hosting GA events.

NB: Parents/Guardians are subject to the Code of Conduct in Attachment B5.

Each Player or Caddie in a competition must adhere to commonly-accepted standards of golfing etiquette and sportsmanship.

In order to ensure proper standards of behaviour during a competition a Player or Caddie, who commits an offence under this Code will face disciplinary proceedings.

1 DEFINITIONS

In this code, unless the context otherwise requires:

Term	Definition
Appeal Tribunal	means the tribunal referred to in attachment D
Board	means the board of directors of GA
Caddie	means the definition as per the Rules of Golf
Code	means this Code of Conduct
Competition	means a Championship, event, competition, practice session or major activity conducted or sanctioned by GA
Conduct Officers	means two officials of GA appointed at any time to consider, hear and determine a report during or after the conclusion of a competition
GA	means Golf Australia Limited
Investigative Officer	means a person appointed by GA to administer a report
National Squad	means the squad by that name comprising a number (determined from time to time by the Board) of Australia's best male and female amateur players
Notice	means notice in writing by letter, facsimile, other written means of communication, or email
Player	means a player or participant in a competition.
Report	means any oral or written statement by any person of an alleged offence by a player under this Code

An act is deemed to occur "*during a competition*" if it occurs:

- when travelling to or from a competition;
- on any qualifying or practice day for a competition;
- when playing at a specific course for the purpose of practicing for an upcoming event at that course; or
- on any day during which the competition is conducted.

2 OFFENCES

NOTE: The use of any narcotic or other substance may constitute an offence under the Doping Policy of GA.

2.1 A Player or Caddie is guilty of a Category A offence under this Code if the Player or Caddie:

- physically attacks or abuses, in any way, a player, an official, or person during a competition;
- verbally threatens a player, an official, or person during a competition;
- racially vilifies a player, an official, or person during a competition;
- wrongfully damages the facilities, including the course and the clubhouse, of the competition golf course;

- e) wrongfully removes or damages property belonging to another player, an official, the tournament organiser, or the competition golf club;
- f) deliberately breaks a Rule (as defined in the Rules of Golf);
- g) deliberately returns a false score card;
- h) during a competition, deliberately seeks to manipulate the player's Australian handicap;
- i) fails or refuses to co-operate with, or obstructs, any investigation by the Investigative Officer of the Player or Caddie's conduct or the conduct of another person;
- j) fails or refuses to co-operate with, or obstructs, a hearing by the Conduct Officers or the Appeal Tribunal;
- k) behaves in a manner detrimental to the good name and reputation of GA; or
- l) brings the game of golf into disrepute.

2.2 A Player or Caddie is guilty of a Category B offence under this Code if the Player or Caddie:

- a) in relation to a competition, publicly criticises:
 - i. *the competition golf course;*
 - ii. *the competition itself;*
 - iii. *the organisers of the competition;*
 - iv. *the sponsors of the competition; or*
 - v. *any official supervising or organising the competition during a competition;*
- b) throws or deliberately or in anger breaks golf equipment (including golf balls) during a competition;
- c) uses abusive or profane language towards another player, an official, or person during a competition;
- d) utters audible obscenities during a competition;
- e) consumes any alcohol or a prohibited substance under the GA Doping Policy during the course of any round played in a competition;
- f) is unable to play golf to the best of their ability without just cause; or
- g) behaves in a manner detrimental to the performance of other players.

2.3 A Player or Caddie is guilty of a Category C offence if the Player or Caddie:

- a) fails to comply with the Rules of Golf as amended by Local Rules in force at any competition, or fails to comply with any other rules, by-laws, directions or instructions, including dress regulations, as specified by GA or the Championship Play Committee for that competition or any other duly authorised official;
- b) fails to comply with the Rules of Golf with respect to Section I – Etiquette. NB Etiquette includes the continual failure to fill in divots or repair pitch marks;
- c) continually fails to play without undue delay;
- d) commits an act to deliberately disqualify the player from a competition or, during the course of a round picks up the player's own ball without playing out a hole;
- e) misses a tee time or withdraws from a competition before the completion of that competition without providing good reason in writing for doing so;
- f) uses a radio (of any kind), recorder or mobile telephone during the course of play in a competition or allows the player's caddy to do so;
- g) smokes cigarettes, cigars or the like during the course of any round played in a competition;
- h) fails, without good reason, to attend the trophy presentation at the completion of a competition where the player is:
 - i. in the case of a stroke play event, a trophy winner; or
 - ii. in the case of a match play event, a finalist or semi-finalist.

2.4 If a Player or Caddie commits two or more Category C offences during a competition, the Player or Caddie is deemed to have committed a Category B offence and is subject to penalties prescribed for a Category B offence. If a Player or Caddie commits two or more Category B offences during a competition, the Player or Caddie is deemed to have committed a Category A offence and is subject to penalties prescribed for a Category A offence.

2.5 Subsequent breaches of the Code within a 24 month period will result in a penalty prescribed for the Category one above the highest Category of the previous breach. For sake of clarity, should a Player or Caddie commit a Category B offence originally, and then commit a Category B offence 6 months later, the player is deemed to have committed a Category A offence and is subject to

penalties prescribed for a Category A offence. Should the original breach be a Category A offence, the penalty imposed will be as the Conduct Officers see fit.

3 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Any report made to GA or the Championship Play Committee during a competition or after the conclusion of the competition must be referred to an Investigative Officer and the Conduct Officers.
- 3.2 Upon receiving a report under clause 3.1, the Conduct Officers must determine whether:
 - a) no further action should be taken; or
 - b) if in the course of such investigation it is evident that, in the opinion of the Conduct Officers, a breach has occurred, an appropriate penalty may be imposed, and communicated to the Player or Caddie by GA (Notice).
- 3.3 The appeal procedure for determination of breach by a Player or Caddie is outlined in attachment D.

4 PENALTIES

- 4.1 If a Player or Caddie is found guilty of a Category A offence, any of the following penalties, minimum 3 months and not normally exceeding more than 2 years duration, may be imposed:
 - a) disqualify the player from the competition;
 - b) an order that the player attend appropriate counselling sessions as specified by GA;
 - c) a recommendation to the player's home club that the player's membership be suspended for a set period of time;
 - d) a recommendation to the player's State Association that the player not be permitted to enter State Events;
 - e) a recommendation to the player's State Association that the player be suspended from a State Squad;
 - f) suspension of the player's Australian Handicap;
 - g) suspension from the National Squad;
 - h) in the case of an offence under clauses 2.1(d) or (e) of this Code, an order that the player should pay compensation to the player, official, tournament organiser or club who suffered loss as a result of the accused player's conduct, or
 - i) such other penalty as determined from time to time.
- 4.2 If a Player or Caddie is found guilty of a Category B offence, any of the following penalties, minimum 1 month but not more than 3 months for any one offence, may be imposed:
 - a) disqualify the player from the competition;
 - b) an order that the player attend appropriate counselling sessions as specified by GA;
 - c) a recommendation to the player's home club that the player's membership be suspended for a set period of time;
 - d) a recommendation to the player's State Association that the player not be permitted to enter State Events;
 - e) a recommendation to the player's State Association that the player be suspended from a State Squad;
 - f) a penalty under the Doping Policy of GA (if applicable);
 - g) suspension of the player's Australian Handicap;
 - h) suspension from the National Squad; or
 - i) such other penalty as determined from time to time.
- 4.3 If a Player or Caddie is found guilty of a Category C offence, any of the following penalties may be imposed:
 - a) a severe reprimand;
 - b) an order that the player attend appropriate counselling sessions as specified by GA; or
 - c) suspension of the player's Australian Handicap (recommendation: no more than 1 month);
 - d) such other penalty as determined from to time.

5 CENTRAL REGISTER

- 5.1 GA will retain a record of all breaches that have been found against a Player, the results of any appeals from such findings and any pending appeals.
- 5.2 Where a Player commits a breach, GA must forward a copy of the Notice and notice of any appeals in relation to the breach to the Player's Home State Association and Home Club which must be kept on register.
- 5.3 A breach is only to be kept on a Player's record for a period of 24 months from the date such breach was committed or, in the case where the breach is the subject of an appeal, from the date the appeal is upheld.
- 5.4 GA will comply with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) when collecting or receiving information under this Code.

Attachment B2: Coach Code of Conduct

In addition to Golf Australia's General Code of Behaviour, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by Golf Australia, a member association or an affiliated club and in your role as a coach appointed by Golf Australia, a member association or an affiliated club:

1. Do not tolerate acts of aggression.
2. Provide feedback to players and other participants in a manner sensitive to their needs. Avoid overly negative feedback and enforce that coming first is not always the priority.
3. Recognise players' rights to consult with other coaches and advisers. Cooperate fully with other specialists (for example, sports scientists, doctors and physiotherapists).
4. Treat all players fairly within the context of their sporting activities, regardless of gender, race, place of origin, athletic potential, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, socio-economic status and other conditions.
5. Encourage and facilitate players' independence and responsibility for their own behaviour, performance, decisions and actions.
6. Involve the players in decisions that affect them.
7. Encourage players to respect one another and to expect respect for their worth as individuals regardless of their level of play.
8. Ensure that the tasks and/or training set are suitable for age, experience, ability, and physical and psychological conditions of the players.
9. Ensure any physical contact with players is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
10. Be acutely aware of the power that you as a coach develop with your players in the coaching relationship and avoid any sexual intimacy with players that could develop as a result.
11. Avoid situations with your players that could be construed as compromising.
12. Actively discourage the use of performance enhancing drugs, and the use of illegal substances.
13. Actively discourage the regular use of alcohol and tobacco.
14. Abide by the relevant Child Protection Requirements and Legislation in the State you perform your duties.
15. Do not exploit any coaching relationship to further personal, political or business interests at the expense of the best interest of your players.
16. Accept and respect the role of officials in ensuring that competitions are conducted fairly and according to established rules.
17. Know and abide by rules, regulations and standards, and encourage players to do likewise. Accept both the letter and the spirit of the rules.
18. Be honest and ensure that qualifications are not misrepresented.



Attachment B3: Member Code of Conduct

In addition to Golf Australia's General Code of Behaviour, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by Golf Australia, a member association or an affiliated club and in your role as an official appointed by Golf Australia, a member association or an affiliated club:

1. Place the safety and welfare of the players/participants above all else.
2. Accept responsibility for all actions taken.
3. Be impartial.
4. Avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest.
5. Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction.
6. Value the individual in sport.
7. Abide by the relevant Child Protection Requirements and Legislation in the State you perform your duties.

Attachment B4: Administrator (Volunteer) Code of Conduct

In addition to Golf Australia's General Code of Behaviour, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held by or under the auspices of Golf Australia, a member association or an affiliated club and in your role as an administrator of Golf Australia, a member association or an affiliated club:

1. Resolve conflicts fairly and promptly through established procedures.
2. Maintain strict impartiality.
3. Be aware of your legal responsibilities.
4. Abide by the relevant Child Protection Requirements and Legislation in the State you perform your duties.
5. Act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the sport as a whole.
6. Ensure that any information acquired or advantage gained from the position is not used improperly.
7. Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behavior and skill development, and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating.

Attachment B5: Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

As a parent/guardian of a player/participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of Golf Australia, a member association or an affiliated club, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any such activity or event:

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.
2. Remember that your child participates in sport for their own enjoyment, not yours. Do not pressure them.
3. Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
4. Never ridicule or yell at your child and other children for making a mistake or losing a competition.
5. Show appreciation for good performance and skilful plays by all players (including opposing players).
6. Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with or in the vicinity of persons under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.
7. Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
8. Do not physically or verbally abuse or harass anyone associated with the sport (player, coach, umpire and so on).
9. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
10. Be a positive role model.
11. Understand the repercussions if you breach, or are aware of any breaches of, this code of behaviour.
12. Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.



Attachment B6: Spectator Code of Conduct

As a spectator of an activity held by or under the auspices of Golf Australia, a member association or an affiliated club, you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any such activity or event:

1. Respect the performances and efforts of all people
2. Reject the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or athletes.
3. Respect the decisions of officials and administrators.
4. Do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches or officials.

PART C: EMPLOYMENT SCREENING / WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK REQUIREMENTS

We are committed to providing a child-safe environment. As part of this, we will recruit staff and volunteers who do not pose a risk to children.

Employment screening and Working with Children Checks can involve criminal history checks, signed declarations, referee checks and other appropriate checks that assess a person's suitability to work with children and young people.

Working with Children Check laws are currently in place in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria, the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory, and South Australia. Working with Children Check laws are currently being introduced in Tasmania.

Golf Australia, including our state associations and clubs, will meet the requirements of the relevant state or territory Working with Children Check laws.

Individuals travelling with children and young people to another state or territory in a work-related capacity must comply with the screening requirements of that particular state or territory.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment C1: Screening requirements (for Tasmania)

Attachment C2: Member Protection Declaration

Attachment C3: Working with Children Check requirements

Attachment C1: Employment Screening Requirements (for Tasmania only.)

Under the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013 (Tas) it will be mandatory for all people working or volunteering in the sport and recreation sector in Tasmania to hold a Working with Children Registration by 1 April 2015.

This attachment explains the procedures we will use up until 1 April 2015 to screen the people associated with our organisation who work, coach or have regular unsupervised contact with children and young people under the age of 18 years. We require our state associations and clubs to follow this procedure.

1. We will identify all positions where people work, coach or have regular unsupervised contact with children and young people under the age of 18 years.
2. Before a person is offered such a position, we will ask him or her to complete a Member Protection Declaration ("MPD") (see [Attachment C2]).
3. If a person is unable to provide a MPD, or if he or she cannot satisfactorily answer the questions in the MPD, we will ask that person to provide an explanation. We will then make an assessment about the person's suitability to work with children and young people. If we are not satisfied of the person's suitability to work with children and young people, we will not appoint them to the position.
4. Where possible, we will check a person's referees (verbal or written) about his or her suitability for the position.
5. We will ask each person to sign a consent form for a national police check and explain why our policy requires a police check to be undertaken.
6. If a person does not agree to a national police check, we will make an assessment about his or her suitability to work with children and young people.
7. If the national police check indicates that a "relevant offence" has been recorded, we will ask the person to provide an explanation. We will then make an assessment about the person's suitability to work with children and young people. If we are not satisfied of the person's suitability to work with children and young people, we will not appoint them to the position.
8. We will protect the privacy of each person who undertakes the screening process and keep all information we obtain strictly confidential.
9. We will return all the information collected as part of the screening process (e.g. completed MPD forms, national police checks and referee reports) to the relevant person if he or she is not appointed to the position. Alternatively, all records will be destroyed within 28 days of the date of the decision or the expiry of any appeal period unless, within that time, the person requests the documents to be returned to him or her. The records of all people appointed to our organisation will be kept on file in a secure location.

Attachment C2: Member Protection Declaration

Golf Australia has a duty of care to all those associated with our organization and to the individuals and organisations to whom this policy applies. It is a requirement of our Member Protection Policy that we check the background of each person who works, coaches or has regular unsupervised contact with young people under the age of 18 years.

I (name) of
..... (address) born/...../.....

sincerely declare:

1. I do not have any criminal charge pending before the courts.
2. I do not have any criminal convictions or findings of guilt for sexual offences, offences related to children or acts of violence or narcotics.
3. I have not had any disciplinary proceedings brought against me by an employer, sporting organisation or similar body involving child abuse, sexual misconduct or harassment, other forms of harassment or acts of violence or narcotics.
4. I am not currently serving a sanction for an anti-doping rule violation under an Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) approved anti-doping policy applicable to me.
5. I will not participate in, facilitate or encourage any practice prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency Code or any other ASADA approved anti-doping policy applicable to me.
6. To my knowledge there is no other matter that Golf Australia may consider to constitute a risk to its members, employers, volunteers, athletes or reputation by engaging me
7. I will notify the Chair or CEO of the organisation(s) engaging me immediately upon becoming aware that any of the matter set out above has changed.

Declared in the State/Territory of.....
on/...../.....(date) Signature

Consent of parent/guardian (on behalf of a person under the age of 18)

I have read and understood the declaration provided by my child. I confirm and warrant that the contents of the declaration provided by my child are true and correct in every particular.

Name:.....

Signature:.....

Date:.....

Attachment C3: Working With Children Check Requirements

Working with Children Checks aim to create a child-safe environment and to protect children and young people involved in our sport from physical and sexual harm.

They assess the suitability of people to work with children and young people and can involve:

- criminal history checks
- signed declarations
- referee checks, and
- other relevant background checks to assess a person's suitability to work with children and young people.

Working with Children Check requirements vary across Australia. [Fact Sheets](#) for each state and territory are available on the Play by the Rules website: www.playbytherules.net.

Detailed information, including the forms required to complete a Working with Children Check, are available from the relevant agencies in each state and territory.

Australian Capital Territory

Contact the Office of Regulatory Services

Website: www.ors.act.gov.au/community/working_with_vulnerable_people_wwvp

Phone: 02 6207 3000

New South Wales

Contact the Office of the Children's Guardian

Website: www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/check

Phone: 02 9286 7276

Northern Territory

Contact the Northern Territory Screening Authority

Website: www.workingwithchildren.nt.gov.au

Phone: 1800 SAFE NT (1800 723 368)

Queensland

Contact the Public Safety Business Agency about the "Blue Card" system.

Website: www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au

Phone: 1800 113 611

South Australia

Contact the Department for Education and Child Development for information

Website: www.families.sa.gov.au/childsafe

Phone : 08 8463 6468.

National Police Check: www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/apply-for-a-police-record-check

DCSI Child Related Work Screening: <http://www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/services/screening>

Tasmania

Contact the Department of Justice about the working with children registration system that is being phased in

Website: www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children

Phone: 1300 13 55 13

Victoria

Contact the Department of Justice

Website: www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren

Phone: 1300 652 879



Western Australia

Contact the Department for Child Protection
Website: www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au
Phone: 1800 883 979

Travelling to other states or territories

It is important to remember that when travelling to other states or territories, representatives of sporting organisations must comply with the legislative requirements of that particular state or territory.

In certain jurisdictions, temporary, time limited exemptions from working with children checks may be available for interstate visitors with a Working with Children Check in their home state.

The laws providing interstate exemptions are not consistent across Australia.

If an employee or volunteer for your organisation is travelling interstate to do work that would normally require a working for children check, you will need to check the relevant requirements of that state or territory.

PART D: COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES

We will deal with all complaints in a fair, timely and transparent manner. All complaints will be treated seriously.

We will provide individuals with an informal and informal process to resolve the matter, along with access to an external complaint handling body, based on the nature of the complaint and our rules and regulations.

We also provide an appeals process for those matters.

We will maintain confidentiality as far as possible and as provided in this policy and seek to ensure that no one is victimised for making, supporting or providing information about a complaint.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment D1: Complaints procedure
- Attachment D2: Mediation
- Attachment D3: Investigation procedure
- Attachment D4: Tribunal procedure

Attachment D1: Complaints Procedure

Golf Australia is committed to supporting people associated with our sport to make and resolve any complaints they may have in a fair, timely and effective way.

We will endeavor to deal with complaints on a confidential basis. We will not provide information about the complaint to another person without the complainant's consent, except if the law requires us to disclose this information or if it is necessary to properly resolve the complaint. To ensure fairness for everyone involved, we will provide the full details of the complaint to the person or people against whom the complaint has been made and ask for their response. As a result, it may be difficult for us to resolve complaints made anonymously.

We will provide **informal and formal procedures** to deal with complaints. Individuals and organisations can also make **complaints to external organisations** under anti-discrimination, child protection and other relevant laws.

Informal Approaches

Step 1: Talk with the other person (if reasonable, safe and appropriate)

If you feel confident to do so, you can approach the other person to discuss the issues and try and resolve the problem directly.

Step 2: Contact a Member Protection Information Officer

We encourage you to talk with one of our Member Protection Information Officers (MPIOs) or an MPIO of the respective Affiliate Member or Affiliate Member Club if:

- step 1 (above) is not appropriate;
- you are not sure how to handle the problem by yourself;
- you want to talk confidentially with someone and find out about what options are available to address your concern; or
- the concern continues after you have approached the other person.

Contact Golf Australia or the respective Affiliate Member or the respective Affiliate Member Club who will place you in contact with an MPIO.

The MPIO will:

- ask how you would like your concern to be resolved and if you need support
- seek to provide different options for you to address your concern
- act as a support person, if you wish
- refer you to an appropriate person (e.g. a mediator) to help you address your concern, if appropriate
- inform the relevant government authorities and/or police, if required by law to do so
- where possible and appropriate, maintain confidentiality.

Step 3: Decide how to address your concern

After talking with the MPIO, you may decide:

- there is no problem;
- the problem is minor and you do not wish to take the matter forward;
- to try and resolve the problem yourself, with or without a support person;
- to resolve the problem with the help of someone impartial, such as a mediator;
- to resolve the matter through a formal process.

Formal Approaches

Step 4: Making a Formal complaint

If it is not possible or appropriate to resolve your complaint through an informal process, you may:

- make a formal complaint in writing to the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club; or
- approach a relevant external agency such as an anti-discrimination or equal opportunity commission, for advice and assistance.

After receiving a formal complaint and based on the material you provide, the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club will decide whether:

- he or she is the most appropriate person to receive and handle the complaint;
- the nature and seriousness of the complaint warrants a formal resolution procedure;
- to refer the complaint to **mediation**;
- to appoint a person to **investigate** the complaint;
- to refer the complaint to a **tribunal hearing**;
- to refer the matter to the **police or other appropriate authority**; and/or
- to implement any interim arrangements that will apply until the complaint process is completed.

In making the decision(s) outlined above, the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club will take into account:

- whether he or she has had any personal involvement in the circumstances and if so, whether it is appropriate someone else should handle the complaint;
- your wishes, and the wishes of the respondent, regarding how the complaint should be handled;
- the relationship between you and the respondent (e.g. an actual or perceived power imbalance between you and the respondent);
- whether the facts of the complaint are in dispute; and
- the urgency of the complaint, including the possibility that you will be subject to further unacceptable behaviour while the complaint process is underway.

If the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club is the appropriate person to handle the complaint he or she will, where appropriate and/or necessary:

- provide the information they have received from you to the person(s) involved and ask for a response;
- decide if there is enough information to determine whether the matter alleged in your complaint did or did not occur; and/or
- determine what, if any, further action to take, including referring the matter for investigation or disciplinary action in accordance with this policy.

Step 5: Investigation of the complaint

In some cases, an investigation may be required to determine the facts surrounding complaint. Our investigation procedure is outlined in Attachment D3.

Following the investigation, a written report will be provided to the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club.

- If the complaint is referred to **mediation**, we will follow the steps outlined in Attachment D2 or as agreed by you, the respondent and the mediator.
- If the complaint is referred to a **tribunal hearing**, the hearing will be conducted according to the steps outlined in Attachment D4;
- If the complaint is referred to the **police or another external agency**, we will endeavour to provide all reasonable assistance required by the police or the agency.

Any costs relating to the complaint process set out in this policy (e.g. investigation, mediation and/or hearings tribunal) are to be met by Golf Australia unless otherwise stated.

Step 6: Reconsidering a complaint or appealing a decision

If the matter is referred to mediation and is not resolved at mediation, you may request that the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club reconsider the complaint in accordance with Step 3.

In accordance with Golf Australia rules you or the respondent(s) may also appeal a decision made at a tribunal hearing. The grounds and processes for appeals are set out in Attachment D4.

Step 7: Documenting the resolution

The CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club will record the complaint, the steps taken to resolve it and the final outcome. This information will be stored in a confidential and secure place. If the complaint was dealt with at a state/district level, the information will be stored by the state association. If the matter is of a serious nature, or if it was dealt with at the national level, the original document will be stored by Golf Australia and a copy stored by the state association.

Approaching external organisations

If you feel that you have been harassed or discriminated against, you can seek advice from your state or territory anti-discrimination or equal opportunity commission. There is no obligation to make a formal complaint. However, if the commission advises you that the issues appear to be within its jurisdiction, you may choose to lodge a formal complaint with the commission.

The commission may investigate your complaint. The commission may also attempt to conciliate the complaint on a confidential basis. If this fails, or if it is not appropriate, the complaint may go to a formal hearing. The tribunal will make a finding and decide what action, if any, will be taken.

If you do lodge a complaint with the commission, an appropriate person from our organisation (e.g. an MPIO) will be available to support you during the process. It is also common to have a legal representative, particularly if the complaint goes to a formal hearing.

Contact details for the state and territory anti-discrimination and equal opportunity commissions are available on the Play by the Rules website:

<http://www.playbytherules.net.au/resources/quick-reference-guide>.

Serious incidents, such as assault or sexual assault, should be reported to the police.

Attachment D2: Mediation

Mediation is a process that allows the people involved in a complaint to talk through the issues with an impartial person – the mediator.

The mediator does not decide who is right or wrong and does not tell either side what they must do. Instead, he or she helps those involved to discuss the issues and seeks to facilitate a mutually agreeable solution.

Our approach to mediation follows the steps set out below.

1. The CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club will appoint a mediator to help resolve the complaint. This will be done under the direction of Golf Australia and in consultation with the complainant and the respondent(s). The mediator will be an independent person in the context of the complaint, however this does not preclude a person with an association with Golf Australia acting as mediator.
2. The mediator will talk with the complainant and respondent(s) about how the mediation will take place and who will participate. At a minimum, the mediator will prepare an agenda of issues to be discussed.
3. All issues raised during mediation will be treated confidentially. We also respect the rights of the complainant and the respondent(s) to pursue an alternative process if the complaint is not resolved.
4. If the complaint is resolved by mediation, where appropriate the mediator may seek to ensure the parties execute a document that sets out the agreement that has been reached. This agreement will be signed by the complainant and the respondent(s). We expect the parties involved to respect and comply with the terms of the agreement.
5. If the complaint is not resolved by mediation, the complainant may:
 - write to the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club to request that they reconsider the complaint; and
 - approach any relevant external agency, such as an anti-discrimination or equal opportunity commission, to resolve the matter.

We recognise that there are some **situations where mediation will not be appropriate**, including:

- when the people involved have completely different versions of the incident
- when one or both parties are unwilling to attempt mediation
- when there is a real or perceived power imbalance between the people involved
- matters that involve serious allegations.

Attachment D3: Investigation Procedure

There will be times when a complaint will need to be investigated and information gathered.

An investigation helps determine the facts relating to the incident, if requested, recommendations as to possible findings and next steps.

Any investigation that we conduct will be fair to all people involved. The investigation process will be undertaken by an unbiased person.

If we decide that a complaint should be investigated, we will follow the steps outlined below.

1. We will provide a written brief to the investigator that sets out the terms of engagement and his or her roles and responsibilities.
2. The investigator may:
 - interview the complainant and record the interview in writing
 - provide full details of the complaint to the respondent(s) so that they can respond
 - interview the respondent(s) to allow them to answer the complaint and record the interview in writing
 - obtain statements from witnesses and collect other relevant evidence
 - make a finding as to whether the complaint is:
 - **substantiated** (there is sufficient evidence to support the complaint)
 - **inconclusive** (there is insufficient evidence either way)
 - **unsubstantiated** (there is sufficient evidence to show that the complaint is unfounded)
 - **mischievous, vexatious or knowingly untrue.**
 - provide a report to the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club documenting the complaint, the investigation process, the evidence and, if requested, any findings and recommendations.
3. We will provide a report to the complainant and the respondent(s) documenting the complaint, the investigation process and summarising key points from the investigation.
4. The complainant and the respondent(s) will be entitled to support throughout this process from their chosen support person or adviser.

Attachment D4: Tribunal Procedures

We will follow the steps set out below to hear formal complaints made under our Member Protection Policy.

Preparing for a Tribunal hearing

1. A Tribunal panel will be established, according to the rules set out in our constituent documents, rules and by-laws, to hear a complaint that has been referred to it by the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club.
2. The number of Committee members required to be present throughout the hearing will be three.
3. The Tribunal panel members will be provided with a copy of all the relevant correspondence, reports or information received and sent by the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club relating to the complaint/allegations.
4. The Tribunal hearing will be held as soon as practicable. However, adequate time must be provided for the respondent(s) to prepare for the hearing.
5. The CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club will inform the respondent(s) in writing that a Tribunal hearing will take place. The notice will outline:
 - that the person has a right to appear at the Tribunal hearing to defend the complaint/allegation;
 - the details of the complaint and of all allegations, as well as the provision or clause of any policy, rule or regulation that has allegedly been breached;
 - the date, time and venue of the Tribunal hearing;
 - that verbal and/or written submissions can be presented at the Tribunal hearing;
 - that witnesses may attend the Tribunal hearing to support the position of the respondent/s
 - an outline of any possible penalties that may be imposed if the complaint is found to be true;
 - and
 - that legal representation will not be allowed. If the respondent is a minor, he or she should have a parent or guardian present

A copy of any investigation report findings will be provided to the respondent(s).

The respondent(s) will be allowed to participate in all Golf Australia activities and events, pending the decision of the Tribunal, including any available appeal process, unless the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club believes it is necessary to exclude the respondent(s) from all or some activities and events because of the nature of the complaint.

6. The CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club will notify the complainant in writing that a Tribunal hearing will take place. The notice will outline:
 - that the person has a right to appear at the Tribunal hearing to support their complaint;
 - the details of the complaint, including any relevant rules or regulations the respondent is accused of breaching
 - the date, time and venue of the Tribunal hearing;
 - that verbal and/or written submissions can be presented at the Tribunal hearing;
 - that witnesses may attend the Tribunal hearing to support the complainant's position; and
 - that legal representation will not be allowed. If complainant is a minor, they should have a parent or guardian present.

A copy of the investigation report findings will be provided to the complainant.

7. If the complainant believes the details of the complaint are incorrect or insufficient, he or she should inform the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club as soon as possible so that the respondent(s) and members of the Tribunal panel can be properly informed of the complaint.

8. If possible, the Tribunal panel should include at least one person with knowledge or experience of the relevant laws/rules (e.g. anti-discrimination).

Tribunal Hearing Procedure

9. The following people will be allowed to attend the Tribunal hearing:

- Tribunal panel members;
- the respondent(s);
- the complainant;
- any witnesses called by the respondent(s);
- any witnesses called by the complainant;
- any parent / guardian or support person required to support the respondent or the complainant.

10. If the respondent(s) is not present at the set hearing time and the Tribunal chairperson considers that no valid reason has been presented for their absence, the Tribunal hearing will continue subject to the chairperson being satisfied that all Tribunal notification requirements have been met.

11. If the Tribunal chairperson considers that there is a valid reason for the non-attendance of the respondent(s), or the chairperson does not believe the Tribunal notification requirements have been met, then the Tribunal hearing will be rescheduled to a later date.

12. If the Tribunal chairperson wishes to reschedule the Tribunal hearing date, the Tribunal Chairperson will inform the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club of the need to reschedule the hearing and they will arrange for the Tribunal to be reconvened.

13. The Tribunal chairperson will read out the complaint, ask each respondent if he or she understands the complaint and if he or she agrees or disagrees with the complaint.

14. If the respondent agrees with the complaint, he or she will be asked to provide any evidence or witnesses that should be considered by the Tribunal when determining any sanctions.

15. If the respondent disagrees with the complaint, the complainant will be asked to describe the circumstances that lead to the complaint being made.

- Reference may be made to brief notes.
- The complainant may call witnesses.
- The respondent may question the complainant and any witnesses.

16. The respondent will then be asked to respond to the complaint.

- Reference may be made to brief notes.
- The respondent may call witnesses.
- The complainant may ask questions of the respondent and witnesses.

17. The complainant and respondent(s) may be present when evidence is presented to the Tribunal hearing. Witnesses may be asked to wait outside the hearing until they are required.

18. The Tribunal may:

- consider any evidence, and in any form, that it deems relevant.
- ask questions of any person giving evidence.
- limit the number of witnesses (including limiting witnesses to those persons who only provide new evidence)
- require (to the extent it has power to do so) the attendance of any witness it deems relevant;
- act in an inquisitorial manner in order to establish the truth of the issue/case before it.

19. Video evidence, if available, may be presented. Arrangements must be made entirely by the person(s) wishing to offer this type of evidence.

20. If the Tribunal panel considers that at any time during the hearing there is any unreasonable or intimidatory behaviour from anyone, the Tribunal chairperson may deny further involvement of the person in the hearing.

21. After all of the evidence has been presented, the Tribunal will make its decision in private. The Tribunal must decide whether the complaint has, on the balance of probabilities, been substantiated.
22. All Tribunal decisions will be by majority vote.
23. The Tribunal chairperson will announce the decision at the conclusion of the hearing. Alternatively, he or she may advise those present that the decision is reserved and will be handed down in written form at a later time.
24. The respondent(s) will have the opportunity to make submissions to the Tribunal in relation to any sanctions that may be imposed.
25. Within 48 hours, the Tribunal chairperson will:
 - forward a notice of the Tribunal's decision to the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club, including any sanction imposed.
 - forward a letter reconfirming the Tribunal's decision to the respondent(s), including any sanction imposed. The letter should also outline the process and grounds for an appeal, if allowed.
26. The Tribunal does not need to provide written reasons for its decision.

Appeals Procedure

27. A complainant or a respondent(s) may lodge with Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club an appeal in relation to the decision of a Tribunal on one or more of the following grounds:
 - 26.1 that a denial of procedural fairness has occurred;
 - 26.2 that the sanction imposed is unjust and/or unreasonable.
 - 26.3 that the decision was not supported by the information/evidence provided at the mediation or to the Tribunal Hearing.
28. A person wanting to appeal must lodge a letter setting out the basis for their appeal with the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club within two days of the decision being made.
29. If the letter of appeal is not received by the CEO of Golf Australia or the respective Affiliated Member or Affiliated Member Club within this time, the right of appeal will lapse.
30. The letter of appeal and the notice of the Tribunal's decision (clause 24) will be forwarded to the Appeals Tribunal to review and decide whether there are sufficient grounds for the appeal to proceed. The Appeals Tribunal may invite any witnesses to the meeting it believes are required to make an informed decision.
31. If the appellant has not shown sufficient grounds for appeal in accordance with clause 26, then the appeal will be rejected. The appellant will be notified in writing, including the reasons for the decisions.
32. If the appeal is accepted an Appeal Tribunal with new panel members will be convened to rehear the complaint.
32. The Tribunal hearing procedure shall be followed for the Appeal Tribunal:
33. The decision of the Appeal Tribunal will be final and binding

PART E: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND DOCUMENTS/FORMS

We will ensure that all the complaints we receive, both formal and informal, are properly documented. This includes recording how the complaint was resolved and the outcome of the complaint.

This information, and any additional records and notes, will be treated confidentially (subject to disclosure required by law or permitted under this policy) and stored in a secure place.

We will treat any allegation of child abuse or neglect promptly, seriously and with a high degree of sensitivity.

We will ensure that everyone who works with our organisation in a paid or unpaid capacity understands how to appropriately receive and record allegations of child abuse and neglect and how to report those allegations to the relevant authorities in their state or territory.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment E1: Confidential record of informal complaint
- Attachment E2: Confidential record of formal complaint
- Attachment E3: Handling an allegation of child abuse
- Attachment E4: Confidential record of child abuse allegation



Attachment E1: Record Of Informal Complaint

This record and any notes must be kept confidential and secure. If the issue becomes a formal complaint, this record is to be given to Golf Australia.

Attachment E2: Record Of Formal Complaint

Complainant's Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18	Date Formal Complaint Received: / /
Complainant's contact details	Phone: _____ Email: _____	
Complainant's role/position	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Official 	
Name of person complained about (respondent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18
Respondent's role/position	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Official 	
Location/event of alleged incident		
Description of alleged incident		
Nature of complaint (category/basis/grounds) Tick more than one box if necessary	<input type="checkbox"/> Harassment or <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual/sexist <input type="checkbox"/> Selection dispute <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching methods <input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality <input type="checkbox"/> Personality clash <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Race <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying <input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Religion <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Victimisation <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Child Abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Unfair decision <input type="checkbox"/> Other 	
Methods (if any) of attempted informal resolution		

Formal resolution procedures followed (outline)	
If investigated:	Finding
If heard by Tribunal:	Decision Action recommended
If mediated:	Date of mediation: Both/all parties present Agreement Any other action taken
If decision was appealed	Decision Action recommended
Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 3 months to resolve <input type="checkbox"/> Between 3 – 8 months to resolve <input type="checkbox"/> More than 8 months to resolve
Completed by	Name: Position: Signature: / /
Signed by:	Complainant: Respondent:

This record and any notes must be kept confidential and secure. If the complaint is of a serious nature, or if it is taken to and/or dealt with at the national level, the original record must be forwarded to Golf Australia and a copy kept with the organisation where the complaint was first made.

Attachment E3: Procedure for Handling Allegations Of Child Abuse

If you believe a child is in immediate danger or a life-threatening situation, contact the Police immediately on 000.

Fact sheets on reporting allegations of child abuse in different states and territories are available at www.playbytherules.net.au.

We will treat any allegation of child abuse or neglect promptly, seriously and with a high degree of sensitivity.

All people working with Golf Australia in a paid or unpaid capacity have a duty to report any concerns to the appropriate authorities, following the steps outlined below.

Step 1: Receive the allegation

If a child or young person raises with you an allegation of child abuse or neglect that relates to them or to another child, it is important that you listen, stay calm and be supportive.

Do	Don't
Make sure you are clear about what the child has told you	Do not challenge or undermine the child
Reassure the child that what has occurred is not his or her fault	Do not seek detailed information, ask leading questions or offer an opinion.
Explain that other people may need to be told in order to stop what is happening.	Do not discuss the details with any person other than those detailed in these procedures.
Promptly and accurately record the discussion in writing.	Do not contact the alleged offender.

Step 2: Report the allegation

- Immediately report any allegation of child abuse or neglect, or any situation involving a child at risk of harm, to the police and/or the relevant child protection agency. You may need to make a report to both.
- Contact the relevant child protection agency or police for advice if there is any doubt about whether the allegation should be reported.
- If the allegation involves a person to whom this policy applies, then also report the allegation to the CEO of Golf Australia so that he or she can manage the situation.

Step 3: Protect the child and manage the situation

- The CEO will assess the immediate risks to the child and take interim steps to ensure the child's safety and the safety of any other children. This may include redeploying the alleged offender to a position where there is no unsupervised contact with children, supervising the alleged offender or removing/suspending him or her until any investigations have been concluded. Legal advice should be sought before any interim steps are made if the person is in paid employment with Golf Australia.
- The CEO will consider what services may be most appropriate to support the child and his or her parent/s.
- The CEO will consider what support services may be appropriate for the alleged offender.

- The CEO will put in place measures to protect the child and the alleged offender from possible victimisation and gossip.

Step 4: Take internal action

- At least three different investigations could be undertaken to examine allegations that are made against a person to whom this policy applies, including:
 - a criminal investigation (conducted by the police)
 - a child protection investigation (conducted by the relevant child protection agency)
 - a disciplinary or misconduct inquiry/investigation (conducted by Golf Australia).
- Golf Australia will assess the allegations and determine what action should be taken in the circumstances. Depending on the situation, action may include considering whether the alleged offender should return to his or her position, be dismissed, banned or suspended or face other disciplinary action.
- If disciplinary action is recommended, we will follow the procedures set out in Clause 9 of our Member Protection Policy.
- We will provide the relevant government agency with a report of any disciplinary action we take, where this is required.

Contact details for advice or to report an allegation of child abuse

Australian Capital Territory	
ACT Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.afp.gov.au	Office for Children, Youth and Family Services www.dhcs.act.gov.au/ocyfs/services/care_and_protection Ph: 1300 556 729
New South Wales	
New South Wales Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.police.nsw.gov.au	Department of Community Services www.community.nsw.gov.au Ph: 132 111
Northern Territory	
Northern Territory Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.pfes.nt.gov.au	Department of Children and Families www.childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au Ph: 1800 700 250
Queensland	
Queensland Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.police.qld.gov.au	Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety Ph: 1800 811 810
South Australia	
South Australia Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.sapolice.sa.gov.au	Department for Communities and Social Inclusion www.families.sa.gov.au/childsafe Ph: 131 478
Tasmania	
Tasmania Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.police.tas.gov.au	Department of Health and Human Services www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children Ph: 1300 737 639
Victoria	
Victoria Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: (03) 9247 6666 www.police.vic.gov.au	Department of Human Services www.dhs.vic.gov.au Ph: 131 278
Western Australia	
Western Australia Police Non-urgent police assistance Ph: 131 444 www.police.wa.gov.au	Department for Child Protection and Family Support www.dcp.wa.gov.au Ph: (08) 9222 2555 or 1800 622 258

Attachment E4: Confidential Record Of Child Abuse Allegation

Before completing, please ensure that the steps outlined in attachment C4 have been followed and advice has been sought from the police and/or the relevant child protection agency.

Complainant's Name (if other than the child)	Date Formal Complaint Received: / /	
Role/status in sport		
Child's name	Age:	
Child's address		
Person's reason for suspecting abuse (e.g. observation, injury, disclosure)		
Name of person complained about		
Role/status in sport	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Official 	
Witnesses (if more than three witnesses, attach details to this form)	Name (1): Contact details: Name (2): Contact details: Name (3): Contact details:	
Interim action taken (if any)		
Police contacted	Who: When: Advice provided:	

Child protection agency contacted	Who: When: Advice provided:
CEO contacted	Who: When:
Police investigation (if any)	Finding:
Child protection agency investigation (if any)	Finding:
Internal investigation (if any)	Finding:
Action taken	
Completed by	Name: Position: Signature: / /
Signed by	Complainant (if not a child)

This record and any notes must be kept in a confidential and safe place. If required, they should be provided to the police and/or relevant child protection agency.