Under 18's Junior Policy Document

Version 1.0

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1. Golf Ireland Under 18 Junior Policy Document

Golf Ireland's Junior Policy helps clubs develop a safe, inclusive and development-focused environment for all golfers under 18. The policy emphasises that juniors are central to the future of golf and that clubs must make the game enjoyable, accessible and suited to young people.

St. Patrick's Golf Club (the Club) has developed this Under 18 Junior policy document in line with the Golf Ireland Under 18 Junior policies.

2. Key Principles

The Club shall

- Implement a child-centred approach ensuring a positive, safe environment.
- Ensure inclusive development that integrating boys and girls together.
- Focus on life-skills development such as respect, sportsmanship and perseverance.

3. Building a Successful Junior Section

The club has appointed a Junior Convenor (Jack Hazard) who consults with the Director of Golf (Charlie Bell) and their Junior Committee to

- Implement structured coaching and development programmes.
- Facilitate competitions for all abilities.
- Provide strong organisational support
- Ensure Junior-appropriate handicapping and safeguarding procedures.
- Provide clear communication with Juniors and parents (carers).

4. Junior Pathway & Development Framework

The Club shall implement a four-stage progression:

- Stage 1 – Beginners (typically under 12): Lessons, skills games and short-course play.

- Stage 2 – Developing players: Longer sessions, more course play and personal-best focus.
- Stage 3 & 4 – Advanced Participation: Focus on WHS Handicap development and structured competition and finally full integration to their respective ladies or gents' adult competitions.

5. Handicapping & Competitions

The Club shall

- Permit Juniors to a WHS Handicap Index by submitting a minimum of 54 holes (9 or 18-hole combinations).

- Offer tiered competitions, starting with short-course formats and progressing to full rounds.

- Permit Junior boys with a fully developed WHS Handicap Index of **19.9 or less** shall be permitted to compete in and win men's competitions (See restrictions in Appendix A)

- Permit **Junior girls** with a fully developed WHS Handicap Index of **39.9 or less** shall be permitted to compete in and win ladies competitions (See restrictions in Appendix A)

Note: Where the terms of competition include Junior restrictions, these shall be clearly set out in the competition literature.

6. Communication (With Parents (Carers) & Juniors)

The Club shall

- Use noticeboards, social media, the Club website and welcome events to share information.

- Provide parent guidance including avoiding sideline coaching and encouraging multi-sport participation.

7. Safeguarding & Welfare

The Club shall:

- Maintain safe-recruitment procedures, prevent bullying, and establish clear rules for communication and the supervision of Juniors.

- Promote a culture where every junior is safe, respected, listened to and appropriately supported.
- Communicate its safeguarding and welfare standards through:

    • A Code of Conduct for Safeguarding Under-18s in a Golf Environment; and
        • Junior Code of Conduct
        • Parent/Carer Code of Conduct

8. Club Planning & Continuous Improvement

The Club shall

- Conduct an annual audit of Junior numbers, participation trends and membership needs.
- Maintain a Junior development plan aligned with long-term club strategy.
- The Junior convenor shall report on Junior matters to the Club Officers/ Council on quarterly basis.

9. Junior Dress Code

Players must at all times be appropriately dressed on the golf course.

Clothing
All Players must wear collared or round neck sports shirts (including with appropriate brand logos) but excluding football and rugby shirts of any kind or Tee shirts bearing names or logos of football, rugby or sports other than golf.

Not Allowed
Denims; Track Suits; Sleeveless shirts; Beach or football shorts (shorts must be tailored) and Trousers tucked into socks.

See clubs general dress club policy for further information.

10 Breach of Policy

All reported breaches of this policy shall initially be assessed by the Junior Convenor and the Junior Committee, who will review the matter and provide a decision or recommended course of action.

If consensus cannot be reached, or if the breach is regarded as serious, the issue may be escalated to the Club Officers to make a determination or to direct the appropriate next steps.

Appendix A – Junior Playing Restrictions

Group	Event	Restrictions
Junior Boys	• Captain's Day*	No play permitted
	• President's Day*	No play permitted
	• Sponsored Events	Not permitted to win 1st or 2nd Prize unless expressly permitted in the T&Cs
Junior Girls	• Lady Captain's Day	Shall only be eligible for the Junior Prize

**Due to time sheet limitations, Junior prizes shall be played for on separate dates prior to the major event.*

Appendix B – Junior Casual Golf Restrictions

The following playing restrictions shall apply to Junior boys (WHI 20.0 or Higher) and Junior girls (WHI 40.0 or Higher):

Junior Playing Times April – September

Monday	Casual Golf Anytime
Tuesday	Comp Times 9-12(Red/Green/Blue/White) Casual Golf after 12
Wednesday	N/A
Thursday	Casual Golf 1-4pm and after 6pm
Friday	Casual Golf Anytime
Saturday	Casual Golf after 3.30pm Comp Time 4pm 9 holes (Red/Green)
Sunday	Casual Golf after 3.30pm

All times require tee booking on BRS before play.