Under 18's Junior Guidance & Practice

Version 1.0

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1. St Patrick's Golf Club Under 18 Junior Guidance and Practice

The Club's Junior Policy helps develop a safe, inclusive and development-focused environment for all golfers in the age group 6 to 17 (inclusive). The policy emphasises that juniors are central to the future of golf and that the club will do everything possible to make the game enjoyable, accessible and suited to young people.

St. Patrick's Golf Club (the Club) has developed this Under 18 Junior guidance and practice 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 integrates 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).

The Children's Officer is Carmel Hanvey, and the Designated Liaison Officer is Joe Torney. Both Officers can be contacted through the Office – Tel:02844615947

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 World Handicap System (WHS) Handicap development and structured competition and finally full integration to their respective ladies or gents' adult competitions.

5. Handicapping & Competitions

The Club shall

- Ensure all Juniors are enabled to obtain a World Handicap System (WHS) handicap index and 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.

- 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)

- 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 including WhatsApp, the Club website and welcome events to share information.

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

-Parents/Guardians/Carers should familiarise themselves with the various junior and safeguarding policies on the club's website at www.stpatricksgolfclub.com

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 member 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.

- The Junior convenor shall report on Junior matters to the Club Officers/ Council on quarterly basis.

9. Junior Dress Code

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 and Trousers tucked into socks. Any type of footwear worn on the course is not acceptable in the clubhouse

See clubs general dress club policy for further information.

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.

Competitions

There will be a competition for juniors every Tuesday morning in July/August and during school holiday periods from 9:00am – 12:00noon. The climax of the golfing year will be Junior Captain's Day, which is held in August –

competitors must have returned a maximum of 3 competition cards to be eligible to take part.

PLAYING TIMES

Juniors may play on any day when the course is free i.e. when there are no adult competitions or matches – **giving way to adults at all times**. (Please see additional restrictions at page 9 relating to certain Junior Casual Golf Restrictions.) You are advised to contact the Pro Shop to check that the course is available before arranging to be dropped off at clubhouse.

CONDUCT ON THE COURSE

Juniors are required to abide by all the rules of the Club. Good behaviour, respect for fellow players, staff and the course are essential at all times. Remember the 3 R's

- Replace divots
- Repair pitch marks on the green
- Rake the bunker after use

COACHING

Coaching is available for all juniors and will take place as arranged by the Professional.

GOLF RULES

All juniors should become familiar with the rules of the game. As the rules are quite extensive you should obtain a copy of the official Rules of Golf which are published by The Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

Juniors should also be aware of local rules e.g. what is the rule if your ball finishes on a pathway on our course? Local rules are displayed on the notice boards.

SAFETY

When practice swinging always find a space well away from fellow golfers. Always keep a safe distance away from other golfers when they are playing a shot.

Shout 'fore' if you hit a wayward shot!

CLUB RULES

1. No practising of any kind is allowed on the course except for the practice ground.
2. Members bringing guests to the Club are responsible for ensuring that green fees are purchased via the Pro Shop or bar before commencement of play.
3. Members are asked at all times to adhere to the Club dress rules as displayed on the notice board.
4. Mobile phones may be carried on or about the course and clubhouse but must be switched to silent mode at all times.
5. Footwear worn on the course must not be worn in the Clubhouse.
6. Students and juniors under 18 may not play any gaming machines.

Any breach of the above rules may lead to suspension of handicap and ultimately dismissal from the Club.

SLOW PLAY

Please avoid slow play.

YOU SHOULD TAKE NO LONGER THAN 1hr 50mins FOR EACH NINE PLAYED

GOLF ETIQUETTE

- No player, caddie or onlooker shall move or speak during a stroke.
- On the putting green no one should stand beyond the hole, in the line of the player's stroke
- No player shall play a stroke until the party in front are out of range.
- Players should not try their putts over again when other players are following.
- Players looking for a lost ball should signal to the players following to

pass, and must not play until they are out of range.

- Any match losing the distance of one clear hole on the match in front may be passed on request being made.
- Always level off sand after playing a stroke from sand bunker.
- All divots, wherever displayed on the course must be replaced.
- Private matches must give way to competitions on all occasions
- Caddie Cars must be kept off putting greens

The etiquette of the game must be observed at all times.

HANDICAP

Juniors should become familiar with the Standard Scratch Score and Handicapping Scheme. This will enable them to know and work out their own handicap after each competition.

Competition cards should always be returned to the Junior Convenor. Failure to do so may lead to having their handicap suspended.

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.*

Junior Casual Golf Restrictions

All times require a tee booking on BRS. 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 1 April – 30 September annually.

Monday	Casual Golf Anytime
Tuesday	Comp Times 9-12(Red/Green/Blue/White) Casual Golf after 12 noon.
Wednesday	Junior Golf not available
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

General FAQs

Q: Can juniors play on their own/unsupervised on the course?

A: St Patrick's Golf Club does not wish to be overly restrictive about this issue but parents/guardians will appreciate that there are general safety issues and matters relating to Safeguarding to be taken into account. For this reason, the club will not apply a blanket rule to all juniors as we believe that 16- and 17-year-olds for example could not be expected to face the same safety restrictions as an 8 year old junior. Clearly there are physical hazards on the course that may affect a child's safety such as ponds, bridges, access roads and internal pathways they may have to cross and access points that general members of the public may have to the course. Parents and guardians will wish

to take the child's experience, knowledge and their individual needs into account when coming to a decision on this matter. Any child who is using the course unsupervised should do so with the permission of their parent/guardian and it is for the parents/guardians to ensure that any child playing unsupervised knows what to do if anything happens on the course.

Q: Can Adults and Juniors play together in competitions?

A: Golf is one of the few sports where adults and juniors can play together in competitive play, and as such there should be no barrier to juniors participating in Adult competitions subject to the required handicap restrictions, any timesheet limitations and written approval process form completed and signed by the Parent/Guardian.