



British Minigolf Association (BMGA)

Child Safeguarding Policy

1. Policy Statement

The British Minigolf Association (BMGA) is committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of all children and young people who participate in minigolf activities under its jurisdiction. We believe that every child has the right to enjoy minigolf in a safe and enjoyable environment, free from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and harm.

This policy applies to all BMGA staff, coaches, volunteers, officials, players, and anyone involved in BMGA-sanctioned activities, including domestic and international events.

2. Definitions

- **Child or Young Person:** Anyone under the age of 18.
 - **Safeguarding:** The action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.
 - **Abuse:** A form of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm.
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3. Aims

- Protect children from harm while participating in minigolf activities.
- Create a culture of openness and responsibility.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their safeguarding responsibilities.
- Provide clear procedures for reporting concerns.

4. Code of Conduct

All individuals working with children must:

- Treat all children and young people with respect.
 - Never engage in any inappropriate physical or verbal contact.
 - Avoid being alone with a child wherever possible.
 - Act promptly and appropriately if a child makes a disclosure or concern is raised.
 - Follow BMGA's reporting procedures for safeguarding concerns.
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5. Safer Recruitment

The BMGA will:

- Require all staff and volunteers working with children to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.
 - Verify identity and references.
 - Provide safeguarding training before any engagement with children.
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6. Training and Education

All personnel working with or around children must complete:

- **Basic Safeguarding Awareness Training**
 - **Regular refresher training** every 3 years.
 - **Event-specific briefings** before tournaments, especially international trips.
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7. Reporting Concerns

Any concern relating to a child's welfare must be reported to the **BMGA Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)**:

- Name: James Rutherford
- Email: admin@minigolf.org.uk
- Phone: 07506520632

All concerns will be taken seriously and acted upon in line with statutory guidance.

8. International Trips

International travel presents additional safeguarding responsibilities. When travelling abroad for minigolf competitions or training:

Pre-Trip Preparation

- A **named trip leader** will be appointed and responsible for overall safeguarding.
- A **risk assessment** will be completed for all travel and accommodation.
- Parents/guardians must provide:
 - Written consent.
 - Emergency contact information.
 - Medical and dietary needs.

Supervision and Staffing

- A minimum of **two adults**, including at least one of each gender when mixed-gender groups are present.
- All staff must have completed safeguarding training and DBS checks.
- Adequate adult-to-child ratios will be maintained (e.g. 1:8 for ages 12–17).

Accommodation

- Children will be housed in rooms separate from adults (unless the adult is the child's parent/guardian).
- Staff must conduct **night checks** while respecting privacy and dignity.
- No adult should enter a child's room alone.

Behaviour and Expectations

- Children must sign a **Code of Conduct** before travel.
- Alcohol, drugs, and inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.
- Breaches may result in immediate return home (at parent/guardian's cost).

Emergency Procedures

- Trip leaders will carry a list of emergency contacts and local medical services.
 - Any safeguarding concern during a trip must be reported to the BMGA DSO immediately.
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9. Communication

- Information about this policy will be made available to all members, staff, volunteers, and parents.
 - It will be published on the BMGA website and reviewed annually.
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10. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed **annually**, or sooner if there are changes in legislation or BMGA practices.

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Review Date: 28/07/2026