



Junior Policy Statement

Horsforth Golf Club are committed to ensure that all children have a fun, safe and positive experience when playing golf.

The aim of our junior policy is to give junior golfers the opportunity to progress to their potential and to equip them with golfing skills that can be used and enjoyed for the rest of their lives.

The policy describes the conditions placed on junior golfers, to ensure their safety on the course.

When are Juniors allowed on the Course?

For their own safety children under the age of 6 years old are not allowed on the course, under any circumstances.

Age Categories

To ensure the safety of junior golfers, but also to recognise their developing maturity and experience on the course, junior members are considered in three distinct age groups:

Under 10s: Children aged 6 to 9

Under 12s: Children aged 10 to 11

Under 18s: Children aged 12 to 18

Note, Children 12 – 18 are permitted to play in Saturday and internal club competitions. However, in both these cases they must be accompanied by a parent or family member who may be playing or non-playing.

Experience

The conditions described below are based on the assumption that junior members continually develop as they progress through the age categories.

However, the Junior Organiser should always have the option to impose additional conditions, should they consider a need. For example, a new junior who falls within the under 12 category may, for a period of time, be expected to adhere to the conditions placed upon under 10s, until they can demonstrate sufficient experience and knowledge of playing the game.

Accompanying Adults

Accompanying adults are required to walk around the course with junior golfers in the under 10 category. They are NOT permitted to play golf. Their sole responsibility is to supervise and care for the junior golfers.

Accompanying adults may not be golfers. A pack is available containing key information about the golf club.

Conditions To Be Applied To All Junior Golf

All Age Groups

The maximum group size, under all circumstances is four. A group is defined as the number of people walking around the course together. This will include junior golfers, adult golfers and accompanying adults. Under certain conditions i.e. junior competitions it is recognised that the group size may be greater than four however the number of junior golfers must not exceed four.

Any group must adhere to the conditions set out for the youngest golfer in the group.

The Junior Organiser retains the option to impose additional conditions, based on the experience and behaviour of individual junior golfers.

Under 10s

- There must be at least **one accompanying adult in every group**.
- The ratio of juniors to adults must not exceed 2:1

Under 12's

- There must be at least **one accompanying adult in every group.**
- The ratio of juniors to adults must not exceed 2:1

Under 18's

- There must be at least **one accompanying adult in every group**
- The ratio of juniors to adults must not exceed 3:1
- There is an exception in that four junior members 12-18 may be permitted to play together.

The Conditions defined above were a result of the following considerations:

All Age Groups

Condition	Reasoning
The maximum group size, under all circumstances is 4	Groups exceeding 4 people would be less safe, due to overcrowding on and around tees. Larger groups are likely to be more audible and less aware of shouts of "Fore!" from other golfers. Smaller groups will ensure that play is kept to speed.
Any group must adhere to the conditions set out for the youngest golfer.	Specific conditions placed upon any group should clearly cater for the youngest and least experienced members.

Under 10's

Condition	Reasoning
There must be at least one accompanying adult in every group.	We must ensure that there is one adult who is solely focussed on the supervision younger golfers.
The ratio of juniors to adults must not exceed 2:1.	The situation of two junior golfers playing, under the supervision of one accompanying adult is reasonable. The combined conditions means that there can not be more than 2 junior golfers in any group, which will ensure that speed of play is maintained.

Under 12's

Condition	Reasoning
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<p>There must be at least one accompanying adult in every group.</p>	<p>We must ensure that there is one adult to supervise junior golfers, under the age of 12. However, given their maturity and experience on the course, the specific need for an accompanying adult is considered unnecessary. Under the original policy, junior golfers jump from 1:1 supervision to unsupervised in a single step, at age 12. It is considered preferable to introduce an intermediate condition, to recognise and reward progression made by junior golfers, as they mature.</p>
<p>The ratio of juniors to adults must not exceed 3:1.</p>	<p>On review of the current policy and the incorporation of the conditions described above, it was considered reasonable to allow for a situation of 3 experienced junior golfers playing under the supervision of one adult. The combined conditions means that there can not be more than 3 junior golfers in any group, which will ensure that speed of play is maintained. Retaining the option for the Junior Organiser to impose additional conditions, means that any inexperienced golfers in this age group can effectively be treat as Under 10s, reducing the ratio back to 2:1</p>

Under 18's

Condition	Reasoning
<p>There must be at least one accompanying adult in every group.</p>	<p>We must ensure that there is one adult to supervise junior golfers, under the age of 18. However, given their maturity and experience on the course, this may be either a playing or non-playing adult.</p>
<p>The ratio of juniors to adults must not exceed 3:1.</p>	<p>On review of the current policy and the incorporation of the conditions described above, it was considered reasonable to allow for a situation of 3 experienced junior golfers playing under the supervision of one adult. The combined conditions means that there can not be more than 3 junior golfers in any group, which will ensure that speed of play is maintained. Retaining the option for the Junior Organiser to impose additional conditions, means that any inexperienced golfers in this age group can effectively be treated as Under 10s, reducing the ratio back to 2:1. There is an exception in that for experienced juniors age 12-18 they are permitted to play in groups of 4 with no adult supervision.</p>