

Non-golfing Children on the Golf Course Policy

Purpose

This policy is intended to welcome children to McLeod Golf Course, and provide a positive experience relating to their introduction to the concept of the game of golf.

It is important that everyone enjoys their time at the Course, that the Course is not damaged and that we protect children from being physically injured or otherwise harmed on the Course.

This policy has been adopted to help promote the understanding of proper golf etiquette and behaviour and to ensure the safety of all those using the Course.

In preparing this policy, it is noted that injuries to children on golf courses, especially under 10 years of age, are often severe and usually to the head and face. Common causes of these injuries are unsupervised play and standing too close to a player swinging a golf club.

Scope and Application

This policy applies to non-golfing children accessing the golf course proper.

It does not apply to children in the clubhouse and other surrounds of the clubhouse facilities.

This policy also does not apply to children learning the game of golf while under the supervision of professional golf teachers, which would usually take place on the driving range or other practice facilities, such as practice nets, practice bunkers or practice green.

Non-playing children on the Course must be under full adult supervision (preferably a parent) at all times and are the sole and full responsibility of that adult.

Policy

1. Children on the Golf Course:

To ensure the safety of children on the Course, all children riding in carts or walking with adults must be able to:

- Wait quietly and patiently, understanding the need to remain quiet while golfers are playing;
- Be attentive to the environment, to be able to avoid being hit by errant golf balls and understand where to stand and why, while someone is swinging; and
- Treat the Course with respect, not creating any damage to the Course (raking bunkers and walking carefully on and around greens).

To this end, it is most likely that children on the Course will have attained the age of 4. We do not permit strollers or children in baby carriers on the Course. Children should be able to walk and be old enough to understand basic golf safety and etiquette in order to be on the Course.

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2. Supervision of children:

- All children on the Course must have full supervision at all times.
- Children must have instruction with regard to appropriate behaviour while on the Course.
- The supervising adult is fully responsible for the children in their care while the child is on the Course;
- Course and or/ club staff may revoke a child's access to the Course at any time, should they believe the conditions stipulated in this policy are not being met. (For example: a child is not behaving appropriately and causing disruption to other golfers, damage to the Course, or there is a concern for the child's safety). Attempts to provide proper warnings would be made, although depending on the nature of the infraction, the adult and child may be asked to leave the Course immediately.
- Adults will be held responsible for any damage caused by a child in their care.

3. Physical Care for Children:

- Golf is not a quick game, and children on the Course need to be provided with appropriate sun and weather protection.
- Children should also be given regular refreshments to ensure they do not get dehydrated while on the Course.

4. Children and Golf Carts:

- Only licensed drivers are permitted to drive golf carts, including privately owned golf carts. Therefore, children are not permitted to operate power golf carts.

5. Toys for children:

- Most equipment that may keep a child entertained on the Golf Course is likely to do damage to the Course (skateboards, bikes, other sporting equipment), therefore it is not appropriate to bring such distractions onto the Course.
- Small entertaining devices, (eg: ipads, tablets, phones) utilised with personal hearing devices may be appropriate, although it is essential that the child is able to hear their supervising adult at all times. Such devices may be a distraction to the child and their supervising adult should consider the risks to the child of using such devices.

It is important to remember that there are hazards in and around golf courses such as golf carts, golf clubs or errant golf balls; all pose a safety hazard if children are not attentive to their environment.

All Golf Club Staff undergo "Working with Children Checks".

McLeod Country Golf Club is committed to providing Children with positive and nurturing experiences.

McLeod Country Golf Club is committed to supporting parents and carers to protect their Children.

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Breaches to this policy will result in the supervising adult and child being asked to leave the Golf Course.

Adults who wish to complain about their treatment may do so in writing to the Board.

At all times, supervising adults are expected to demonstrate a mature and understanding attitude to the staff who are attempting to implement Club Policy. Golf Club Staff are not expected to tolerate bullying or harassing behaviour, and such offences will not be tolerated. Golf Club Staff will attempt to be as polite and courteous as possible at all times when dealing with golfers.

Authorisation

Board approval – Board meeting of 4th August 2026

Version Control:

DRAFT	1 June 2021
Version 2	17 June 2021
Version 3	4 th August 2026