



# Junior Handbook

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## **Introduction**

Welcome to Allendale Golf Club. We hope that your golfing experiences at the club will be both enjoyable and rewarding.

Please note that we also organise a number of social events throughout the year which you, your family and friends are most welcome to attend.

This handbook is set out under the following headings:

- Points of contact, documentation
- Rules and regulations
- Coaching opportunities
- Playing, handicaps and competitions

### **Points of contact, documentation**

The Junior Organiser, who is currently Mrs. Valeria Dunn, can be contacted on 01434 618741 and at [ianwhdunn@btinternet.com](mailto:ianwhdunn@btinternet.com). She is available to help you in any way regarding your golfing activities at Allendale Golf Club.

The current Welfare Officer is Mrs. Alwyn Woodcock [ tel: 01434 345389 ]. Any issues regarding welfare should be directed to her.

We have in place a Child Protection Policy and Child Protection Procedures. These are subject to review each year. They are documented in full and they are available for inspection and referral on the Junior Club website and on the Clubhouse notice board.

All volunteers working with Junior golfers at the Club will always have been C.R.B. checked.

Documents that are distributed on joining the club include;

- a player profile to be completed and returned to the Junior Organiser
- a code of conduct to be completed by the Junior member and returned to the Junior Organiser
- a document giving guidance for parents of Junior golfers
- a form requesting permission for photographic images

## **Rules and regulations**

Junior members must be aged under 18 years of age on January 1<sup>st</sup>. of the current year. There is no minimum age restriction on Junior members of the Club but children under the age of 11 years of age are not allowed on the playing area unsupervised.

All members should sign in the members' book prior to playing.

Junior members are not entitled to introduce guests to the club without an adult member being present.

Courtesy on and care of the course must always be adhered to – divots and pitch marks repaired and damage to greens avoided. Bags and trolleys are not allowed on the greens. Do not hold up other players on the course but allow them to play through. For general golf etiquette please refer to *Rules of Golf (R&A)* available from the Junior Organiser.

All players are expected to maintain a respectable standard of dress.

Juniors as members of the Club are entitled to use the changing rooms and clubhouse at all times.

## **Coaching opportunities**

Martin Forster, who is the Club's visiting Golf Professional, is available for coaching. He delivers coaching sessions for Junior members during the playing season. These are organised by the Club and are often free of charge. You will be advised of their availability.

Our volunteer coaches, who are adult members of the Club, also run buddy sessions where new Junior members are introduced to the course, the etiquette of golf and given assistance in completing cards to keep score or establish a handicap.

## **Playing, handicaps and competitions**

Juniors can play the course off either the red or the blue tees. The blue tees offer a shortened course which is particularly valuable for those just beginning to develop their golfing skills.

Junior handicap allowances (maximum 54 for both boys and girls) are administered by the Club in accordance with the current recommended CONGU Junior Handicapping Scheme.

Initial handicaps for Junior members are based on scores for three separate rounds of at least 6 holes. Assistance with these rounds is readily available from the volunteer coaches.

For the allocation of 'Club handicaps' in the ranges of 29 to 54 (boys) and 37 to 54 (girls), the Club's Junior Development Officer will process completed cards as set out in the scheme documentation.

Once allocated a club handicap, all Junior members can play in the Club's junior competitions and also those of other Golf Clubs. Junior Club competitions will be played only from the red tees (i.e. on a 'measured course') over 9 or 18 holes.

In addition, all Junior members with a club handicap can play in any Club competition where participation in that particular competition is designated as "...open to all members". They play off the red tees with a maximum handicap of 36 strokes.

For those with a club handicap but just starting to play golf, 'junior development competitions' are organised using the forward blue tees and played over 9 or fewer holes.

A range of Junior competitions are scheduled throughout the playing season organised in two age groups, Under 18s and Under 13s. In 2017, they will comprise the following competitions:

- separate boys and girls Monthly Medals in April, May, July and August
- The Dave Wilson Memorial Trophy (stableford) - open to boys and girls
- Midsummer Greensome - open to boys and girls playing as a pair with an adult for Under13s
- The Russell Handcock Greensome – open to boys and girls playing as a pair with an adult for Under 18s.
- separate boys and girls Junior Club Championships in both age groups.

Refer to the Club Fixtures Booklet (which is distributed in January each year) to access the dates of Junior competitions and those in which they can participate.

We also hold other competitive golfing activities such as the Golf Passport, which develops skills in a fun environment. Young golfers are encouraged to join other development initiatives such as the *Northumberland Junior Golf Tour*.

