

PORTADOWN GOLF CLUB

Junior Members Welcome Booklet

Portadown Knights



2023-24



WELCOME!

Here you'll find everything
you need to know about
becoming a Junior member
at PGC - now known as
YOUR golf club.

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Welcome to Portadown Golf Club

On behalf of Portadown Golf Club, we wish to extend a very warm welcome to you as a new junior, current junior or as someone interested in joining our junior section.

There is a great history of junior golf here at PGC. Along with our dedicated Junior Development Team, the Club's Captains and the Council, we are fully committed to providing each and every one of our juniors with the chance to develop as an individual and improve both their golfing and social skills.

The Junior Committee, Club Professionals and members are here to help you and to answer any questions you may have.

This booklet has been produced to give you the basic information needed to begin to play golf at PGC. We hope you enjoy playing your golf and being a member of this club. We're so glad to have you!



Our Vision

At PGC the growth and development of Junior Golf is very important to us. We want you to feel part of our club and we know that all our members will ensure an environment of care, patience, fun, understanding and encouragement that will give you the best start in your development as a young golfer.



PGC Vision

'To provide a high quality, value for money, golfing and social experience for Members and Guests.'

Portadown Knights: Our Aims

We aim to provide a safe environment for all junior members to learn to play golf and gain knowledge of the rules and etiquette of the game. As well, we aim to promote sportsmanship and the name of Portadown Golf Club. To help achieve these aims, the Club will endeavour to provide juniors with the right environment for them to achieve their potential at whatever level is right for them.



Supporting you

We realise that when you first join our club, you might not know exactly what to do or who is the best person to help. So we have put together some names and faces to help you get to know some people who you can go to if you have any specific questions or concerns.

Who's who?



Captain
Ronnie McReynolds



Lady Captain
Kim Spragg



Chair of Junior Committee & Club Children's Officer
Judith Connolly



Junior Committee & Designated Liaison Officer
Gillian Cuthbert



Derek Cloughley
Bar Manager



Club Professional
Paul Stevenson



Assistant Pro
James McVicker



Junior Committee
Michèle Coulter



Gareth Thompson
Junior Committee



Craig Black
Junior Committee



Rodney Kernaghan
Junior Committee



Alan Curran
Junior Committee

Useful Contact Numbers:

Office Manager: Emma Taylor (028) 3835 5356

Pro Shop: Paul Stevenson (028) 3833 465



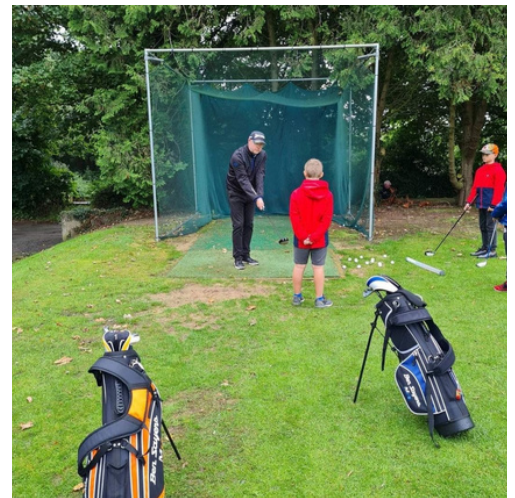
Developing Your Game

Juniors have protected tee times on a Wednesday morning during school holidays. Juniors with an official handicap are permitted to play at any time subject to booking and availability of tee times. Tee times can be booked by contacting the Pro Shop or on BRS. Juniors with an unofficial handicap **must** be accompanied by an adult.

Coaching

Each junior member will receive the opportunity to participate in coaching sessions throughout the year. Coaching takes place either on the practice areas or out on the course.

Juniors are also encouraged to take individual lessons with our PGA Professionals in addition to any group sessions



Competitions

Within the Junior section you will have opportunities during the school holidays to participate in planned competitions at your golfing level. You will be given an unofficial handicap once you have completed 3 nine hole cards. You can then start working towards getting an official handicap.

When you are ready to get your official handicap, you must submit 3 cards of 18 hole rounds or 6 nine hole rounds.



Junior Membership

There are two types of Junior membership:



Child Under 11



Includes 3 group coaching opportunities throughout the year

See Club website or contact the Office for rate

11- 18 - Juvenile



Includes 3 group coaching opportunities throughout the year

See Club website or contact the Office for rate

Junior Facilities

Junior Locker Room and Noticeboard

The junior noticeboard is located at the entrance to the junior locker rooms on the right hand side. Make sure you know where this is as it has information regarding competitions, results, etc. You can get a key for the junior locker room from the Office.

Practice Grounds

We have various practice facilities which are available for juniors to use. These include:

- A chipping and putting green
- A practice net
- A short game area alongside the 5th fairway – bring your own practice balls

Please remember to treat these areas with respect and leave them as you found them.

Clubhouse Facilities

When the Clubhouse is open, juniors can order drinks and snacks in the bar (obviously no alcohol under the age of 18!). Parents and family friends are always welcome to share these facilities.



Being a Responsible Junior Member

Every individual in the Club should at all times, show respect and understanding for the rights, safety and welfare of all. All Junior members will be asked to agree and sign our Code of Conduct. This is your commitment to follow the code at all times on and off the course at PGC or when visiting other clubs.



Clothing and Equipment

Golf is an outdoor sport and can be played in all weathers, so you should be prepared. Please remember - no jeans or football shirts.

Our Pro Shop is also there to help you when it comes to clothing and equipment too.

The Rules of Golf

The rules of golf are very precise, but you are not expected to learn them all at once. Make an effort to learn the basic rules – this is important if you want to play competitive golf.

It is a good idea to carry a copy of the Rules of Golf in your golf bag (copies of The Players' Guide are available for free in the clubhouse or online at <https://www.golfireland.ie/rules-for-beginners>).



Competitions



Juniors have protected tee times **every Wednesday morning during the school holidays**. 18 holers pay £2 and all other players pay £1 for competition entry.

Juniors are split into the following categories and tee times:



- **18 Holers (Red and Green Tees): 9- 9.40am**
- **Yellow Tee players: 9.45 - 10.15am**
- **Blue Tee players: 9.45 - 10.15am**
- **Cadets (beginners): 10 - 11am**

Please note that these times are subject to change

Booking a Tee Time

- To book a tee time please sign up on the draw sheets pinned on the Junior Noticeboard located in the entrance way of the Junior locker rooms . Make sure you put your name in the correct group e.g. 18 holers, yellow tee player, blue tee player or Cadet, by **Sunday at 5pm**.
- Tee times will be published on Portadown Knight's social media pages (please give us a follow/like)
- If you have missed the booking deadline, please either contact the Pro Shop or arrive at your scheduled time slot on Wednesday morning. If it is possible, we will try to allocate you to a group.

Your Playing Card

When you have finished your round you must sure:

- You have checked and agreed your score
- You circle the tee colour you played from
- Your card is signed by you and your marker
- You place your card in the Junior competition box located near the competition computer in the Clubhouse



Failure to follow these steps could result in your card being withdrawn from the competition!



Safety

Whilst PGC is a safe, friendly and welcoming environment, the Club has a duty of care to all its Members, especially the young. Therefore, we have thought of some general 'top tips' to keep you safe.

You are advised to:

- Never play on your own without permission of a parent
- Always let the Pro Shop know that you are on the course
- Arrange for your parents/guardians to pick you up and drop you off during daylight hours.
- Carry a mobile phone onto the course (remember to put it on silent or switch it off). This can be used in an emergency, make sure you have the phone number of the Pro Shop and Clubhouse saved in your contacts too.
- Cadets* must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times.
- Players playing off blue and yellow tees must have a minimum of one adult per group (to be decided amongst parents).



Safeguarding and Child Protection

It is our aim to keep our Juniors, and those working with them safe and protected. Therefore, PGC have a Child Protection Policy which can be viewed on the website or requested from the Office. We also have a Designated Children's Officer and Liaison Officer.

*Please Note: Cadets are those players starting their golfing journey. Usually under 9 depending upon ability.

Safety on the course:

Always:

- Be ready to hit your shot – be Golf Ready
- Avoid slow play
- Before playing your shot, wait until the group in front have moved far enough away from the area towards which you are striking your ball
- Always shout “FORE” if your ball is heading towards others whether they are players or not
- If someone shouts “FORE” to you, turn away to protect yourself – don’t look around to see who shouted!
- Check that you will not hit anyone with your club when you swing
- Stay behind and to the right of the player taking their shot



"Golf inspires us to try things we never thought we could do."



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