



# JUNIOR HANDBOOK



## **Welcome from the 2024 Captains and Presidents:**

On behalf of Skerries Golf Club, we would like to welcome you as a new or returning member for the year 2024

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Over the last number of seasons, the Junior Committee has worked extremely hard to develop new and exciting initiatives for our junior members. As we put you, the junior member at the forefront of decisions made around programmes and activities our junior section over the years has grown.

The Junior Committee and Volunteers remain dedicated in its primary purpose; and that is to promote golf as a lifelong sport that can be enjoyed by any age or any standard.

We are delighted to continue our strong relationships and partnerships with Golf Ireland who enable us to run a sustainable junior section.

We are looking forward to working with you

Best wishes for the 2024 season

## **Welcome and Induction from the Junior Convenors Jim and Elaine and Junior Committee**

We hope that being a member of our Club will prove to be an enjoyable experience for you. For those of you that are beginning your golf journey we aim to give you the best possible opportunity to learn golf in a fun and safe environment and develop your skills so that you can progress at a rate that is suitable for your individual needs. For those who are progressing we hope you will avail of the opportunity to enter and play in competitions with other members as well as have the opportunity to be selected for team events.

The Cadet and Junior Convenors work with a group of adult volunteers and we are there to help you as best we can to ensure that your experience at our Club is a positive one. In return we ask that you uphold the rules of the club and always behave in a manner that you are proud of.

Golf Clubs can be busy and sometimes scary places especially if you are new and unsure where things are or who is there to help you. It is hoped that by reading this handbook a lot of your questions will be answered and if they are not covered that you at least know who to contact to find out the answer.

### **Mission Statement**

*The aim of our Junior Section of Skerries Golf Club is to help you to enjoy your golf whatever level you may aspire to. We also hope to make your golfing experience one of fun in a friendly and safe environment, where great (lifelong) friendships can be made.*

All of us at Skerries Golf Club are looking forward to a great year.

## Important Contacts

Our Golf Club has a number of people committed to helping the junior and cadet section. Below gives a brief description on each role and the name and contact details of that person in the club:

### Cadet and Junior Convenors

The cadet and junior convenors look after the cadet and junior section and are responsible for organising suitable activities for all our young members.

### PGA Professional

The PGA Professional delivers the coaching sessions to the juniors and to other club members.

### Junior Captains

The junior captains are juniors' that represent the junior section and engage with all junior members.

### Lady Captain, Men's Captain and Presidents

The Lady Captain leads the Ladies section of the club, the Men's Captain leads the Men's section of the club and the Presidents acts as an ambassador of the club.

Role	Name	Contact Details
PGA Professional	Bobby Kinsella	01-8491567 ext. 5
Chairperson Junior Section	Joe Hilliard	086-8277277
Designated Liaison Officer	Pat Horan	087-982 0511
Children's Officer	Jim McDonnell	087-9093186
Junior Convenor – Boys	Jim McDonnell	087-909 3186
Junior Convenor – Girls	Lady Captain Elaine McGloughlin	085-785 5316
Cadet Section	Gavan Farrell	087-659 6167
Parents Rep	Louise Shannon	086 049 3117
Junior Captain – Boys	Jeff Sexton	N/A
Junior Captain - Girls	Lauren Monaghan	N/A

## Skerries Golf General Club Information

### Dress Codes

In order for our junior section to “Look good, feel good, and play good!” the Junior Committee, Junior Captain and some juniors created the following dress code:

- New members will be given a voucher which can be redeemed in the Pro-Shop for a club T-Shirt.
- Wear neat trousers – if it is sunny tailored shorts are acceptable
- Wear hats – to avoid the UV rays!
- It is best you wear golf shoes – so you don’t slip!

### The Clubhouse

The clubhouse can be used by all members including the juniors. With this in mind it is important that juniors behave in an appropriate manner whilst using the facilities. As a junior section we have come up with the following Code of Conduct together:

- We will remove our golf shoes and hats when entering the clubhouse
- We will take off any wet clothing or shoes in the locker room before entering into the Club House
- The boys will use the men’s locker room
- The girls will use the women’s locker room
- We won’t shout or make lots of noise in the clubhouse
- We will put our mobile phones on silent and leave the clubhouse if we have to take a call
- If we move chairs so that we can all sit in a group, we will replace them when we are finished
- We will not cause a mess for the staff to clean up
- When we go into the clubhouse, we will put our golf clubs in a place that will not be in other members way
- We will always be courteous to other members of the club

We will revise this Clubhouse Code of Conduct at the start of each season and each junior member will be asked to sign the code.

### Tee Time Reservation

Our course can be a busy one and for that reason it is advised that you always book a tee time and check in to the pro shop before going out on the course.

If you are unable to make your tee time, it is important that you take your name off the timesheet and, if possible, inform your playing partners that you have done so.

**Please note:** *Cadet Members are not permitted to go on the course unless they are with an adult member.*

## **On Course**

It is important that when you go onto the golf course, that you are safe and you follow the course etiquette. As junior section we have agreed the following:

- For juniors starting off on the course it can sometimes be intimidating when other members are behind you – try and use the course at quieter times and if another member is coming behind you simply pull into the side and wave them through. The exception to this is during Thursday competitions when juniors have priority.
- To replace divots on fairways and repair pitch marks on greens
- To switch mobile phones on to silent and not take calls
- To be ready to play your shot when it is your turn
- To always wait until the people in front are at a safe distance before hitting
- That players should never stand behind someone when they are swinging a club
- To not distract other people on the golf course
- To always shake hands with the people you have played with at the end of the round

It was agreed that when going onto the course it was important to remember:

- A divot bag
- A pitch mark repairer
- A ball marker
- A pen/pencil
- Some golf balls
- Only 14 clubs are allowed
- Tees

## **Local Rules**

Local rules are specific to each club and it is important you make yourself aware of them as they may have an influence on the interpretation of the rules of golf. They are usually in place for local features such as young trees that may be staked and therefore you might get a free drop.

## **Competitions**

Junior competitions are on Thursdays. To enter competitions you should follow the following steps:

- Enter your name on the timesheet by logging into the Club website or ring the Pro Shop
- On the day sign in in the Pro shop
- You should be present on the tee and ready to play at least five minutes before your starting time
- Fill in your scorecard with your name, handicap index and date

## **Communication**

In Skerries Golf Club we use many forms of communication as listed below:

### **Notice Boards**

Notice boards are located in the hall at the entrance to the mens locker room and in the ladies locker rooms. The junior notice board is where information on upcoming events, coaching and other activities will be posted.

### **E-mail**

We communicate with Parents and Guardians via e-mail of upcoming activities or team selections

### **Whats App**

We will set up WhatsApp groups for parents and guardians.

## **Skerries Golf Club Junior Activities**

In Skerries Golf Club we have a number of junior activities to ensure that each junior can progress at a rate that is suitable to them.

### **Junior Competitions**

The times for competitions are: - Front 9 - 8:00 to 11:28  
Back 9 - 9:00 to 11:28

Competitions will be held on:

Every Thursday during the summer

Juniors have designated junior times (with no competition) over the mid-term breaks

Timesheets open on Friday evenings at 19:30

Juniors can book their own time on BRS for junior competitions and designated junior times over the mid-term breaks but must contact the Pro Shop for other bookings i.e. casual golf. Our Club Professional Bobby will advise juniors on the best times to play and whether they should use the front or back nine.

Juniors are not allowed to invite guests to Skerries Golf Club.

Junior Boys with a WHS handicap index of 19.9 or lower may play anytime in Men's Club Adult competitions.

U 16 Boys with a WHS handicap index of 19.9 or lower may play in Men's Club Adult competitions but only after 1.00 pm.

The following will apply to both categories:

They shall be eligible to win all prizes in the Vice Captains, Presidents, and monthly medal competitions.

They shall not be eligible to win first or second prize in the following major competitions the Captains, Prize St Patrick's Cup, Holmpatrick Cup, Centenary Trophy, PGA Tankard, and the Lemass Trophy.

They may only be invited to play in the Captain's prize for the Junior Prize.

Female Junior players who have achieved a handicap index of 39.9 or lower and are approved by the Committee of Management are permitted to enter adult competitions as outlined below

Junior girls with a WHS Handicap Index of 39.9 or less can compete in and win all women's competitions but should avoid playing at peak times.

They shall not be eligible to win first or second prize in the Lady Captain's Prize, Lady President's Prize, Captain's Prize to Ladies, and President's Prize to Ladies.

### **Cadet Section**

This is currently for children from 8 to 11 years.

This group meets on Sunday afternoons/evenings – more info to follow. Input from parents is essential with this age group.

### **Disciplinary Procedure**

If the Code of Conduct is broken the following steps will be taken to resolve the issue:

- Someone will lodge a complaint about the breakage of the Code of Conduct by a junior
- The disciplinary committee will hear the case from all parties so you will be given an opportunity to have your say
- The disciplinary committee will decide if a rule or regulation of the Code has been broken
- They will then, in writing inform the parents of the junior involved of the sanctions that will be imposed
- If any party does not agree with the decision that has been made they can appeal the decision in writing within a 10 day period
- The appeals committee is convened by the Junior Officer/Convenor and the chairperson will be someone from the executive committee and will not include anyone from the original disciplinary committee
- The appeals committee should confirm or set aside change any sanction made by the disciplinary procedure
- If the issue can't be resolved at local level the complaint will be brought to the national case management committee.

### **Bullying:**

Bullying is defined as '*repeated aggression whether it is verbal, psychological or physical that is conducted by an individual or group against others*'. In our activities different people may be involved in some kind of bullying incidents. These may include juniors, leaders, coaches, parents etc.

As a club we are committed to ensuring that any incidents of bullying are dealt with in an appropriate manner and juniors know they are in a supportive environment where it is not acceptable to bully and **it is ok** to tell if you know about incidents of bullying.

**Conclusion:**

We hope you enjoy your membership at Skerries Golf Club for many years to come and embrace the many benefits that golf has to offer.

If you have any question as a result of reading this introduction document, please get in touch with one of the Junior Committee.