

Recognising Prohibited Conduct in Golf

There are many ways to know if someone is unsafe, worried or experiencing abuse, in golf or elsewhere.



ALLEGATIONS

When a junior or any other person tells you about an incident that happened to someone else or that someone else was directly involved in.

Initiated by someone else.



DISCLOSURES

When a junior or any other person tells you about an incident that happened to them or that they were directly involved in.

Initiated by someone else.



SUSPICIONS

When you have a reason to suspect a junior or any other person has been harmed, based on observations, instinct or gut feeling, behaviours and indicators.

Initiated by you.

You may form a suspicion if you:

- Overhear a comment made by a junior
- Overhear a comment made about a junior
- See behaviour or an action from a junior
- See behaviour or an action from an adult or an older junior
- Notice changes in mental or physical health
- Notice physical injuries
- Notice something concerning on social media, OR
- Just get a gut feeling that something isn't right



Indicators – in Children and Young People (juniors, under age staff, participants or visitors)

Behavioural Indicators

- Showing wariness or distrust of adults
- Demonstrating fear of parents and of going home running away or hiding
- Reluctance to be left alone with a particular person
- Overly friendly with particular person
- Being very passive and compliant
- Poor understanding of boundaries or personal space
- Adult language used in play
- Unexplained absences
- Low self esteem
- Symptoms of anxiety or depression
- Lashing out or aggressive behaviour

Physical Indicators

- Bruises, fractures, burns, sprains, dislocations, bites, cuts.
- Pressure marks from fingers
- Injury does not match the explanation
- Signs of internal injury e.g. visual problems, dizziness, abdominal pain, shortness of breath
- Wearing long sleeved clothes on hot days (to hide bruising or other injury)
- Pain in genitals or sexually transmitted diseases
- Frequent hunger or malnutrition
- Poor hygiene
- Left unsupervised / continually late to be picked up
- Medical needs not attended to



Indicators in Adults and Professionals

(coaches, officials, club members or parents)

Indicators of Grooming

- Spending 1:1 time with one junior
- Giving gifts to a child
- Showing special favours to one junior but not others, like paying for new equipment
- Contacting a junior outside of their role
- Telling sexual jokes or making sexual references
- Offering to babysit a junior
- Asking parents personal questions about the child
- Having photos of a junior on their phone or social media profile
- Hugging or excessive physical contact with a junior
- Being in the changeroom at the same time as the junior

Indicators of Other Behaviours in Adults

- Avoiding confrontation or questions about behaviour
- Defensiveness when challenged or questioned about behaviour
- Comfortable breaking the rules or pushing boundaries
- Rough and unsolicited contact (wrestling, sparring)
- Using explicit language regularly in presence of juniors
- Threatening, dominating or overbearing
- Excessive interrupting or dismissing juniors' views
- Body shaming or commenting on a junior's body
- Gaslighting – making someone second guess what they think they observed
- Inability to regulate emotions – positive or negative

These may be indicators that someone is experiencing or causing harmful behaviours or prohibited conduct in golf, or outside of golf, like at home, at school or somewhere else in the community.

Regardless of where it might be happening, the first thing you should do is CHECK IN with that person and see if they are ok or if there is anything you can do to help.

You can:

Respond

- Call 000 if immediate risk to safety
- Provide a safe and confidential space
- Reassure them they are doing the right thing
- Don't make promises especially promises to keep secrets
- Just listen, avoid questions especially those that can be leading
- Remind them it's not their fault and that you will take it seriously

If you SPOT it, FLAG it.



If you **SPOT** something (like an action or behaviour)

That doesn't seem right (seems strange, makes you uncomfortable or may have hurt someone)

FLAG it with someone within golf so we can address it quickly and sensitively.

The safety of our juniors comes first.



You can let your club know

(a manager, the pro shop or a coach or instructor)



You can let an official know

(tournament director, volunteers or coordinators)



You can let authorities know

(Sport Integrity Australia or the Police)



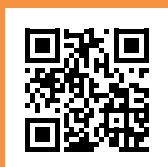
**You can speak to
someone directly**



**You can call
or email**



**You can
report online**



Golf Australia



Sport Integrity
Australia

