



CAMBRIDGESHIRE AREA GOLF LIMITED
trading as
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AREA GOLF UNION

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

APPENDIX 21

Introduction

CAGU recognises that it has a duty of care for the health and welfare of junior golfers within its coaching programme. All activities involving juniors are governed by the CAGU Policies and Procedures contained within its Safeguarding Policy and associated documents which are available to download on the CAGU website. This document also forms part of the CAGU Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. An outline of the coaching programme can also be seen on the website.

Responsibility for the management of the Junior Coaching programme is delegated to the Director of Junior Golf and all communications regarding junior players must be directed to him. All staff involved with junior players must hold current DBS clearances and Safeguarding Certificates. All junior players and parents must agree and follow the various codes forming part of the CAGU Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

The CAGU pathway for junior development closely follows the England Golf Talent Pathway which identifies five stages for differing age groups and abilities:

1. Club and School activities – all ages and abilities
2. County Talent Programme – Ages 10-18
3. England Golf Regional Squads – Age 14-18
4. National Junior Squads – Age 16-18
5. National Squads Age 18+

This document sets out how the second stage - 'County Talent Programme' - will be managed.

Main Priorities

The County Coaching programme has one overriding aim which is to encourage, support and enable young people to fully develop their ability and to reach their full golfing potential, which may be as a good club player, an elite amateur or a playing professional.

In the first stage of the County scheme, activities involve coaching in basic skills, fun competitions, and an introduction to competitive golf in the form of short events created especially for the younger players. As they develop through coaching, they will all improve their golfing skills and, depending upon their progress, may become involved with official teams, competitions and matches.

As they become older and their ability increases they will experience more competitive golf and for the better players this range of competitions increases very considerably as the players become eligible to compete in regional and national events.

All young players want to play as much as possible however there is a risk to some by playing in too many competitive events in a short period. Such a situation raises the risk of the young player becoming fatigued or subject to mental health issues.

It is therefore essential that CAGU helps players to 'manage' their events to allow for adequate rest periods. Players that are selected for England Golf Regional Squads receive specific formal

instruction on this subject however the problem may arise at the County level with multiple events and team commitments both within and outside the County.

The following paragraphs outline the procedures which will be followed by CAGU to ensure that excessive demands are not made on players and to assist them in managing their playing commitments. It is most important that parents also support these measures particularly when additional external golfing commitments are involved and the Director of Golf will discuss players commitments with parents where he feels this is of concern.

Competitive Golf Restrictions

General

In order to exercise some control over the amount of competitive golf being played, the golfing commitments of players will be monitored and the following maximum days of competitive golf (excluding practice days) will be applied for all CAGU events.

Under 12 There will be at least one rest day after any two consecutive days of competitive play.

Under 14/16 There will be at least one rest day after any three consecutive days of competitive play.

Under 18 There will be one rest day after any four consecutive days of competitive play.

Individual Events

There will be times when events clash and the boys are faced with choosing which event to enter. In order to simplify this choice boys will not be selected for CAGU events/matches if they are competing in the following events. **Note** At all other times squad members will be expected to give priority to CAGU events if selected.

England Golf

Boys Order of Merit Events
Carris Trophy
MacGregor Trophy
Reid Trophy
Boys Champion of Champions

Midland Golf

EG Boys County Championship Qualifier
Midland Champion of Champions
Midland U16 Championship

Other Events

Boys Amateur Championship
Peter McEvoy Trophy

Team/Match Commitments

The following policies must be observed when selecting boys for the various teams. The selection of boys to play in a higher age group match/competition should only be done as part of their development programme and not merely as an available replacement for a player in the correct group.

Under 12 and Under 14 Groups

Will normally only play in their respective groups/events but may be selected to play at one group higher as part of their development. In exceptional circumstance they may be asked to play two

levels higher but this will only be with the approval of the relevant Team Managers and the Director of Junior Golf.

Under 16 Group

Will normally only play in their respective groups/events however they may be selected to play at U18 level as part of their development.

In exceptional circumstances an U16 player may be selected for one of the Men's County Teams. In such cases this must only be done as a recognised part of their development programme and not merely as an available replacement. This will only occur with the approval of the relevant Team Managers, the Director of Junior Golf, and with the express permission of the boy's parents. In respect of 'away' fixtures involving an overnight stay, the safeguarding measures detailed within the CAGU Safeguarding Procedures must be reviewed and special attention paid to accommodation arrangements and suitable social activities.

Under 18 Group

The Under 18 players may be selected for any U 18 event. In addition, they may be selected for the Men's teams if such selection is an integral part of their development plan. If selected for a Men's away fixture involving an overnight stay the safeguarding measures detailed within the CAGU Safeguarding Procedures must be reviewed and special attention paid to accommodation arrangements and suitable social activities.

Any participation in a Men's team is to be considered as an opportunity to gain experience and is not a permanent change. U18 players will primarily remain as U18 players.