



Brancepeth Castle Golf Club

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION POLICY 2023

1. STATEMENT OF INTENT

1.1 Brancepeth Castle Golf Club shares the belief of England Golf and Durham County Golf Union that golf belongs to everyone. All who play and all who aspire to play must have an equal opportunity to do so.

1.2 Brancepeth Castle GC is committed to the principles of equality and diversity throughout its membership, its paid and volunteer workforce and any others with whom the Club engages.

1.3 Brancepeth Castle GC considers that everyone should play their part in making golf inclusive and aims to ensure that all people, irrespective of background or Protected Characteristics, have a genuine opportunity to engage with golf. We will not disadvantage any individual by imposing conditions or requirements which cannot be justified.

2. WHO DOES THIS POLICY APPLY TO?

2.1 This Policy shall apply to, and be binding upon our Club, its board of directors, sub-committees, staff, volunteers, coaches, contractors, squad players, agents, and representatives working, holding office or acting for or on behalf of our Club.

3. OTHER IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

This policy works with other documents adopted by our Club, in particular:

- Employee handbook which relate to the relationship between the Club and those it employs and the recruitment process.
- Disciplinary Regulations which may be used to deal with alleged breaches of this policy.
- Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, and Safeguarding Adults Policy, which will be followed in respect of any matters which give rise to a safeguarding concern.
- Code of Conduct which set out the standards of behaviour and conduct expected from members, those who are attending Club events, or representing, working for or otherwise engaging with the Club in some capacity.
- Complaints Policy which may be used to deal with concerns raised about the actions of the Club
- Data Protection Policy which sets out how we will handle personal data, including data collected to monitor diversity in line with this Policy.

4. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

A. WHAT WE WILL DO

1. Promote fairness, equality, diversity and respect for everyone working, volunteering or participating in the sport of golf or otherwise engaging with the Club.
2. Ensure that all competitions, events and activities administered by the Club are carried out in a fair and equitable way (except where specific situations and conditions prevent this, or where we consider that Positive Action is a proportionate way to achieve a legitimate aim).
3. Monitor and review Club policies, procedures and regulations to ensure that they are consistent with the requirements of this policy, including policies relating to admission to membership.
4. Where practical we will take steps to monitor the diversity of the Club's members, participants, players, volunteers and others that we may engage with in order to measure and assess the impact of this policy
5. Provide appropriate training and support to staff, volunteers, officials and others.
6. Make reasonable adjustments for those with a disability.
7. Publish this policy on the Club website.

B. WHAT WE WON'T DO

1. Discriminate against anyone, either directly or indirectly, on the basis of a Protected Characteristic.
2. Subject anyone to less favourable treatment on the basis of them doing a Protected Act (victimisation).
3. Subject anyone to harassment in relation to a Protected Characteristic.

5. REPORTING PROCEDURES

If you are concerned about the behaviour or conduct of someone at a Club event, someone representing the Club, or any other breach of this policy:

- 5.1 please report the matter to the Club Welfare Officer, Marianne Moore (email marianne@hotmail.co.uk Tel 07815803447) or the current Club Captain, giving as much detail as possible.
- 5.2 If the matter is reported verbally, and you are able, please follow the verbal report in writing as soon as possible.
- 5.3 The Club will consider the appropriate way to deal with the matter, which may include referring the matter to and/or seeking guidance from England Golf.

6. HOW WE WILL DEAL WITH BREACHES OF THIS POLICY

- 6.1 When we receive a report or a concern that relates to this policy we will ask the Club Welfare Officer to consider the matter initially. They will consider the appropriate next steps, which may include the following:
 - a. seeking further information in relation matters raised
 - b. seeking guidance from England Golf or any other appropriate body or organisation

- c. referring the matter to another body or organisation
- d. dealing with the matter informally
- e. deciding which procedure is the most appropriate, such as the Employee Disciplinary Procedure, the Safeguarding Policies or the Disciplinary Regulations, to progress the matter formally.

6.2 The Club will usually inform the person reporting the matter of the next steps and/or the outcome of the matter. However, there may be circumstances in which we are not able to disclose full details to the reporting individual. This may be because the law prevents us from doing so, because some information is confidential or to protect the safety or wellbeing of those involved.

7. KEY CONCEPTS, DEFINITIONS

A. The Equality Act 2010 and Discrimination

Every individual and organisation to whom this Policy applies must not act in a way which is directly or indirectly discriminatory on the basis of a Protected Characteristic.

The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to discriminate directly or indirectly against individuals or groups with certain “Protected Characteristics”. The “Protected Characteristics” are listed in section 4 of the Act:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Religion or Belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation