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*Driving women's golf*

20 October, 2009

County Secretaries  
County Captains  
County Representatives on Regional Committees  
Regional Administrators  
County Junior Organisers

Cc: EWGA Management Board  
EWGA Operational Board

Dear Colleague

It has been brought to EWGA's attention that some girls are being prevented from playing in women's competitions and we would like to take this opportunity to clarify the Association's position on this issue.

The EWGA believes that girls should be permitted to play in women's competitions and be selected for women's teams where their handicap permits for the following reasons:

- Girls are able to develop their golfing skill, and knowledge of golf rules and etiquette by playing alongside more experienced players. They are also able to develop the social skills they will need to get on in life
- Today many youngsters are taking GCSE's and BTEC's in Sport which require them to participate in competitions with a range of other players. Thus, playing in women's competitions is not detrimental to their academic work, but supports it.
- Play across the generations helps develop a greater level of understanding of each other's perspective
- The sport becomes more competitive, and standards of play are therefore increased
- Golf becomes a less divided sport, enabling it to project an image that is more attractive to prospective new players.

Furthermore, the EWGA notes that preventing girls from entering women's competitions or being selected for women's teams is discrimination on the basis of age, and therefore contrary to the EWGA Equity, Equal Opportunities and Fair Treatment Policy, (pages 98-99 of the EWGA Handbook). As such, the EWGA has a duty to take action to encourage any members who practice such discrimination to come back into compliance with its policies.

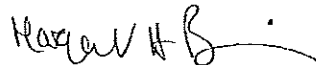
As a consequence, effective from 1 January 2010, the EWGA regrets it has to consider withdrawing EWGA medals from any club failing to allow girls to play in women's competitions or consider selecting them (if available) for teams. The EWGA believes that County Associations are the bedrock of EWGA and should be seen to support EWGA policies. If they are unable to do this then EWGA will consider preventing them from competing in Regional County Match Weeks. EWGA sincerely hopes that this matter can be settled swiftly and amicably.

The EWGA has a fundamental commitment to equality in our sport, and ensuring that all those who participate in golf – whether as a player, volunteer or official – receive fair, equitable and equal treatment.

Yours faithfully



Jim Robinson  
Chief Executive



Margaret Berriman  
Chairman of the Operational Board