



Course Closure Policy

Closure of the Golf Course may be necessary at certain times due to the condition of the Course; prevailing weather conditions; or other special circumstances. This action is taken either to prevent damage to the Course or to ensure the safety of golfers and other persons on the Course. The club has no jurisdiction to close the course to walkers using the public footpaths that traverse the course.

The purpose of this document is to lay down the Club's policy for Course Closure, to detail procedures for its implementation and to define and allocate responsibilities.

Conditions for Course Closure

Action to close the Course MAY be taken for the following reasons:

1. Flooding or Waterlogging of the Course

Flooding or waterlogging of areas of the Course, in particular the greens. During or following heavy periods of precipitation the Course may become unplayable. To allow golfers onto the Course in such conditions may cause damage to the turf and playing surfaces.

A course inspection would, however, usually be needed to confirm this. The inspection must never be completed in the dark, even with a torch.

2. Lying Snow or Heavy Frost

Sensible play is not normally possible when snow or heavy frost is lying on the Course. Turf on the Course, especially on the greens, are particularly susceptible to damage when frozen sub-soil is thawing. Whilst the course is unlikely to be closed due to frost, temporary greens can provide an alternate solution.

When temporary greens are in play, the decision to revert to normal greens will only be taken by the Course Manger, the deputy Course Manger, or in their absence the General Manger.

3. Electrical Storms

Lightning strikes can present a major danger to golfers on the Course. When thunderstorms are present or imminent positive action needs to be taken to ensure that golfers are aware of the danger. Play should be suspended promptly; this is indicated immediately by the sounding of the klaxon.



One Long Blast - It is mandatory that you leave the course. If the Horn is not sounded during a competition and a player believes there is a real danger by proceeding a player is entitled to discontinue play under Rule 5.7[a] All players must exercise due diligence and take the appropriate action.

Two Short Blasts - This will signify that it is safe to resume play.

Where there is insufficient time to evacuate the course and the threat of lightning, you are advised to comply with the following.

- Do not shelter under trees or go to high ground
- Keep low as possible and ideally crouch down in the nearest bunker/hollow
- Leave your golf equipment where it is and stand away from it.
- Do not use a mobile phone, make sure it is switched off
- Do not put an umbrella up in any circumstances.

Note: Thunderstorms can be heard from some distance and, on occasion, can be in the vicinity but not affect the Course. The person responsible for Course Closure must carefully observe the prevailing weather conditions (wind speed and direction, etc.) before taking action. An over-zealous or hasty decision may be regretted later.

4. Fog and Mist

In order to meet our health and safety responsibilities members and visitors MUST take due care when deciding to play the course as it may not always be "officially" closed due to adverse weather.

A particular example is in the case of fog. As a general rule no play will take place on the course if a distance of 150 yards cannot be seen. Fog can be of variable density at different times and parts of the course and is therefore difficult to legislate for all circumstances.

The Committee offers the following as a guideline only:

No play should take place on the course if players cannot clearly see the players in front of them. Players should NOT tee off under these circumstances and should wait for the fog to lift/clear.

Whilst on the course players must use their own judgement on whether or not to continue to play. Please note that anyone deciding to play the course when fog is present or any other adverse weather condition does so at their own risk.



High Winds

If winds speeds get to levels where there is a realistic risk of injury from failing branches, then players should be advised not to tee off.

Course Closure procedure.

Responsibility for Closure

The Course Manager has the authority to close and re-open the Course. In the absence of the Course Manager, this authority is delegated to the Senior Greens Staff, in consultation with the General Manager. No other club official or indeed member has the authority to change this decision.

Action to be taken

Once the decision to close the Course has been made, the official responsible for the decision is to ensure that:

The Course Information line is updated, the closed sign is placed on the board, plus the club website is also updated

The Club Office Staff, Club Professional, House Staff and Caterer are advised of the action taken.

- a. Whenever a major tournament or competition is about to begin or is in progress, the official responsible for the decision is to inform the event organiser at the earliest opportunity.
- b. If the reason for closure implies a threat or danger to golfers already on the Course, the official responsible for the decision is to take immediate action by sounding the klaxon,

(d) When the Course is re-opened the official responsible for the decision is to ensure that the previous actions referred to above are reversed.



Note,

Where the course is deemed payable, the Course Manger having inspected the course may well consider not to allow buggies and trolleys, unless the appropriate winter wheels are fitted to trolleys. Trolleys with winter wheels will be used between the months of December to the end of February. However should weather conditions affect the course before or even after these months, winter wheels will be used.

Note,

The Winter wheels that are to be used are ones that have been endorsed by the British and International Green keepers Association, such as Hedge Hogs wheels. For further advice and support please speak with the professional.

Course Closure – Review Policy

Flooding or Waterlogging of the Course

Reviews will be held on a daily bases or as appropriate considered by officials (Storms, Lighting strikes, Fog)

This policy has been completed in line with the Golf Course Health & Safety Information & Risk Assessment 2020 last up-dated 2nd, February 2020