



COURSE CLOSURE POLICY

Introduction

1. Closure of the Golf Course may be necessary at certain times due to the state 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.
2. 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

3. Action to close the Course may be taken for the following reasons:

(a) 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 may make the Course unplayable and to allow golfers onto the Course in such conditions may cause damage to the turf and playing surfaces.

Note: A good indicator of the need to close the Course at such times is when surface water appears or is lying on the 15th green or when the practice putting green in front of the Clubhouse is waterlogged. A Course inspection would, however, usually be needed to confirm this.

(b) Lying Snow or Heavy Frost

Play is not possible when snow or heavy frost is lying on the Course and should not be permitted until all playing areas are clear.

Note: Turf on the Course, especially on the greens, is particularly susceptible to damage when frozen sub-soil is thawing. Play should never be allowed at these times, although the use of temporary greens can provide an alternate solution.

(c) Electrical Storms

Lightning strikes can present a major danger to golfers in the open on the Course. When thunderstorms are present or imminent positive action needs to be taken to ensure that golfers are aware of the danger, take shelter or leave the Course and that play is suspended promptly.

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, particularly when a major tournament is in progress.

(d) Fog and Mist

When fog reduces visibility to less than 200 yards Closure of the Course will be necessary in the interests of the safety of players, Course Staff and persons using the public rights of way.

Note: If the tree on the left side of the 1st fairway can be seen from the Summer Medal Tee play may be considered safe. Visibility can, however, vary considerably on different parts of the Course. A full Course inspection may be necessary in some circumstances to confirm the need to close or re-open the Course.

(e) Special Circumstances

Certain special circumstances may necessitate the total or partial (i.e. specific holes) closure of the Course, for example maintenance and major project works, accidents, emergencies and/or police activity.

Course Closure Procedure.

4. Responsibility for Closure

The Course Manager, normally in consultation with the Director of Golf, 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 on duty or to the Director of Golf. When neither Course Staff nor the Director of Golf are available the action may be authorised by (a) the Club Professional; or (b) a member of the Management, Captain's or Course Committees.

5. Course Closure – Action to be taken

(a) Once the decision to Close the Course has been made, the official responsible for the decision is to ensure that:

(i) The "Course Closed" sign is placed on the notice board at the entrance to the Car Park, with the details of when the situation will next be reviewed; and

(ii) the Course Information Line (01604 842400) and Club Website (www.northamptongolfclub.co.uk) have been updated; and

(iii) the Club Office Staff, Club Professional, House Staff and Caterer are advised of the action taken.

(b) 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.

(c) 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, located in the courtyard outside the Bar Cellar entrance, in terms of the Club's Klaxon Policy.

(d) When the Course is re-opened the official responsible for the decision is to ensure that the actions referred to in 5(a), (b) and (c) above are reversed.

6. Course Closure – Review Policy

(a) Flooding or Waterlogging of the Course

On an two hourly basis from 8.00 am to 2.00 pm in Winter; and

On an two hourly basis from 7.00 am to 4.00 pm in Summer.

(b) Lying Snow or Heavy Frost

At 8.00 am, 11.00 am and 2.00 pm daily.

(c) Electrical Storms

On a half-hourly basis from commencement of the storm to conclusion of the storm.

(d) Fog and Mist

On an hourly or *ad hoc* basis, whichever is deemed most appropriate.

(e) Special Circumstances

On an *ad hoc* basis, depending on circumstances.