

Safety on the Course

Adverse Weather, Lightning and Suspension of Play

General Considerations

- Discontinue play immediately- **one prolonged blast on the klaxon.**
- Resume play - **3 short notes** on the klaxon, repeated
- For many club events there will not be any Committee representative in the clubhouse. Nor will there be experienced referees, personnel, sufficient buggies, horns or radios to organise a suspension or evacuation with precision. **Players must take responsibility for taking the appropriate action to ensure their safety.**
- In Open events, competition organisers will be on site and must be prepared to take a proactive role in liaising with the professional/ secretary/head greenkeeper to manage inclement weather and dangerous situations and communicating decisions to the players on behalf of the Committee.
- The following links may be useful:
- <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/observation/map/gcwghuys#?map=Rainfall&fcTime=1468199700&zoom=8&lon=-1.54&lat=53.99>
- http://en.blitzortung.org/live_lightning_maps.php?map=10
- <https://www.lightningmaps.org/#y=50.2836;x=5.0064;z=7;t=3;m=sat;r=0;s=0;o=0;b=0.00;n=0;d=2;dl=2;dc=0;>
- Following a suspension of play there is no absolute requirement for a ball to be marked and lifted. **In the case of a potentially dangerous situation it is more important to get the players off the course and the ball can be left *in situ*.**

Casual Water on the Greens

- Bad weather is, not of itself, a reason to discontinue play. A player should make every effort to complete the competition.
- If rain is of sufficient intensity to present an **unfair condition**, for example a hole surrounded by water on one or two greens, then in the absence of a suspension of play by the Committee a player is authorised to suspend play without penalty.
- The use of squeegees either during suspension of play or when play is in progress may enable a competition to be completed.
- If disruption is such that it would be **unfair** for a player to continue, a player is authorised to suspend play without penalty and report to the professional's shop.

- To avoid the situation where a player does not know whether play has been discontinued or not, **one long blast on the klaxon will signal a suspension of play by the Committee.** Players **must** discontinue play **immediately** and take appropriate action.

Lightning

- When a player believes there is a danger from lightning, the player **may** suspend play immediately and take appropriate action to ensure his or her safety. (Rule 5-7a applies)
- **One prolonged blast on the klaxon will signal a suspension of play by the Committee.** Players **must** discontinue play **immediately** and take appropriate action.
- (Note to Rule 5-7b) *“When play is suspended by the Committee, if the players in a group are between the play of two holes they shall not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole **they shall discontinue play immediately** and shall not thereafter resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play.”* **Penalty for breach of rule: disqualification, unless circumstances warrant waiving the penalty** (Rule 5-7b)
- The Klaxon is the signal for all to make their way from the course. Should it not be possible to give sufficient warning to clear the course prior to an electrical storm striking:
 - Don't use shelters that are not fully enclosed and properly earthed
 - Stand away from your golf clubs and trolley. If leaving the course, you are strongly advised to leave your clubs behind
 - Do not put up your umbrella
 - Do not shelter under trees or high ground
 - Avoid walking under trees
 - Switch off and do not use a mobile phone
 - Keep as low as possible and if necessary, crouch down in a low point on the course
 - Remove headgear which may have metal on it.

Cancelled Round and Abandoned Competition

- Rarely does the Club have the opportunity to extend a 18 hole stroke play event, although rescheduling a competition is a possibility. Once play of a round has started, if it is clear that not all the field can complete their round (excepting DQs and NRs), the committee will **cancel** the round if it will be grossly unfair not to do so. If the round is cancelled all entry fees will be refunded irrespective of whether your round has been completed.
- In the event of a qualifying competition for handicap purposes, the competition will be **abandoned** and the result becomes CSS=SSS reduction only with handicap adjustments made only for competitors with a Nett differential less than zero. No handicap increases will be applied when a competition is **abandoned**.