



STONEHAVEN GOLF CLUB

GOLF COURSE HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION 2014

This information identifies the main hazards that members and visitors to Stonehaven Golf Club may encounter whilst playing, practising or walking the course.

It does not contain a definitive list of hazards, as by the very nature of the game of golf, it is impossible to eliminate risk entirely.

ALL accidents and incidents **MUST** be reported to the Manager's Office, so that the appropriate documentation may be completed.

Emergency services: 999
(Our postcode AB39 3RH)
Clubhouse: 01569 762124

Stonehaven Golf Club boasts lovely scenery and wildlife that has no respect for health and safety and there are always dangers associated with animal burrows, slippery banks/slopes and unstable cliff edges.

Persons playing or walking on the course do so **AT THEIR OWN RISK** and must not do anything to jeopardize the safety of themselves or others.

All players are expected to adopt golfing etiquette by not playing a golf shot if there is the remotest chance of it injuring someone, or by walking in front of a fellow competitor or partner prior to them playing a shot.

Health and Safety is the responsibility of not just the Club but also the individual.

ARRIVING AND LEAVING THE CLUB

Please be careful as you enter and leave the Club as the road leading to the Clubhouse is especially with parked cars. Drivers please keep your speed down on the driveway and take extra care when entering or leaving the lower car park. Care should also be taken when exiting the clubhouse driveway as cars can approach from the right under the railway bridge at speed.

ADVERSE WEATHER - LIGHTNING

A decision to carry on playing during adverse weather conditions is left to the discretion of the player, who **MUST** accept full responsibility for his/her safety. The Club strongly recommend you stop play particularly when thunder and lightning is prevalent.

If however, the klaxon sounds, the instructions below **MUST BE STRICTLY** adhered to:

One long blast - it is mandatory that you cease play and leave the course.

If the Horn is not sounded and a player believes there is a real danger by proceeding, he/she is entitled to discontinue play under Rule 6-8 (A) (ii).

Where there is not sufficient time to evacuate the course and there is a threat of lightning, you are advised to comply with the following procedure:

- **Keep as 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 under any circumstances.**

It is the player's own responsibility to discontinue play when, in his/her opinion, a danger from lightning exists.

DO NOT - Shelter under trees or go to high ground, use a mobile phone (switch it off), or put your umbrella up in any circumstances.

Play should not resume for at least 10mins, after the final clap of thunder. For guidance, every 3 seconds between observing Lightning and hearing the Thunder equates to a distance of 1 Km from the Thunderstorm.

ADVERSE WEATHER - FOG

In order to fulfil health and safety responsibilities, Stonehaven Golf Club operates a fog policy. As a general rule of thumb if it is not possible to clearly see the 1st green, **players must not start to play golf**. No play should take place on the course if a minimum distance of 150 yards cannot be seen. Whilst on the course, players must use their own judgement based on the distances.

If however, the klaxon sounds, the instructions below **MUST BE STRICTLY** adhered to:

One long blast - it is mandatory that you cease play and leave the course

Two blasts - play may be resumed, but with caution if visibility is still poor

ADVERSE WEATHER - RAIN, FROST & ICE

Special care must be taken to avoid trips, slips and falls when standing on, or walking near, banks/slopes/cliffs, especially during wet, frosty or icy conditions as these are considered to be some of the most hazardous areas of the course, particularly during or immediately after adverse weather conditions.

If the course has not been officially closed, this does not mean that it is necessarily fit to play and golfers must determine for themselves, whether they consider it is safe to do so.

RAILWAY PROPERTY

Golfers and visitors are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** from entering railway property to retrieve or look for a lost golf ball. Any player doing so will be reported to the Manager and will be suspended from the club.

ACCIDENT/ EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

First Aid Assistance: In the event of an accident, First Aid boxes are located behind the bar in the Clubhouse and in the Green-keepers sheds.

Defibrillator: A Defibrillator is kept behind the bar in the Clubhouse in case of an emergency. The Bar Manager and Senior Steward are trained in its use.

Mobile Phones: Mobile Phones must be switched off in the Clubhouse lounge and on the course. Their use is not permitted on the course except to summon help in the case of an accident / emergency.

COURSE RISK ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

Please note that this list is not exhaustive, to help minimise the risks from the hazards that have been identified, it is your responsibility as a golfer on the course to ensure that you adhere strictly to the following:

You are advised to exercise caution at all times on the course in respect of identifying areas where you may be at potential risk of being hit by another golfer's ball, particular care should be taken on the following holes:

- Where the landing area is not clearly visible from the tee - 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th, 14th.
- Areas where parallel fairways are played in opposing directions - 3rd, 4th, 9th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 16th, 17th.
- Where fairways cross over each other – 1st, 5th, 16th, 18th.

Stonehaven Golf Club comes under The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, which allows the right to universal access to the land of Scotland. This right exists to all members of the public providing it is exercised responsibly, by this we mean not damaging the course and being aware of the dangers of walking in the vicinity of golfers

playing their shots. Please remember that if there are members of the public or golfers in range of your shot take a minute to enjoy the scenery until they are out of range.

If a miss hit shot is heading in the direction of other people, you must shout “FORE!” in a loud voice to alert them of possible danger. If “FORE!” is heard when playing, please take evasive action if possible;

Players should not strike a golf ball when there is the risk of endangering other players, members of the Green Staff and all other users of the golf course and its surroundings. Particular care should be taken on holes where the landing area of your shot is not clearly visible.

Animal Holes: Stonehaven Golf Club does its best to fill in holes created by animals, however it is inevitable that there will be rabbit holes etc. that can lead to sprained ankles or worse. Please ensure you take extra care when you are walking in areas of rough or near edges of bunkers.

Buggies: The use of motorised ride-on buggies is permitted only by prior arrangement with the Manager, subject to production of valid public liability insurance, prevalent weather and course conditions. To help protect the fairways as much as possible all buggies are to use the first cut or rough wherever it is practicable to do so and should follow pathways and tracks. On the 3rd, 16th and 17th holes they should stick to the right-hand edge of the fairways to avoid the steep slopes, and if necessary, MUST, traverse all sloping fairways at right angles to the slope. However we MUST stress that due to the hilly aspect of the course buggies are not really suitable and are therefore used entirely at your own risk.

Fertiliser and Insecticides etc: Do not lick golf balls or fingers. A notice on the 1st Tee will advise of days that chemicals have been used. Players are advised to take heed of the warnings and protect themselves.

Footwear: Stonehaven Golf Club recommends that golf shoes are to be worn on the golf course as they will help with avoiding slips.

Greenkeepers: The green staff work on the Course when golf is in progress. Please be careful and courteous to them and ensure that they are aware of and have acknowledged your presence prior to playing in their proximity.

Insurance: All golfers must ensure that they are adequately insured in respect of the risks involved with the playing of golf.

Practicing: This is strictly limited to the designated practice areas within the Club:

- The Practice area adjacent to St Marys Chapel and the Practice Nets.

All players using the practice area must be aware of golfers playing the 1st and 18th holes and keep within the designated area. **Under no circumstances is there to be any practicing on the Course itself.** To ensure the safety of all users of the practice area, as well as other golfers and members of the public, these instructions must be adhered to.

Steep Banks, Slopes & Paths: By the very nature of the Course it has numerous steep banks, slopes and paths and certainly too many to list individually. At all times players should take care when walking up or down these, particularly when using golf buggies or trolleys. Care should also be taken to keep well away from cliff top edges as they can be slippery and in parts unstable, especially after heavy rain.

To help with the review process of our safety procedures all Members, Guests and Visitors are kindly requested to bring to the attention of the Manager any incidents that happen on the golf course, or hazards they feel have not been addressed.