

# Werneth Low Golf Club

## Health and Safety On The Golf Course

### Introduction

The following provides an overview assessment of the risks identified for players when playing any of the courses at Werneth Low Golf Club.

**It is the responsibility of all players (members, guests and visitors) to ensure that they are adequately insured to cover whatever situation may arise.**

Mobile Phones must be switched off on the course; however they should be carried on the course in the case of emergency to summon help.

### Emergency numbers:

Emergency Services : 999

Postcode for the club is SK14 3AF

Golf Club : 0161 368 2503

Extension 1 – Office, Extension 2 – Pro Shop

Extension 3 – Bar

### PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Players are expected to be aware at all times of danger to others and to themselves.
- All accidents must be reported.
- Care must be taken at all times to avoid accidents or injuries to oneself and to other players, officials or staff.
- First aid boxes are located in the pro shop, bar, kitchen and green keepers shed.
- All accidents must be reported to the club's business manager or club's professional for entry into the accident book.

### THE COURSE

The Golf Course Risk Assessment has been carried out on a hole-by-hole basis.

As a general rule, players should not strike a golf ball when there is the risk of endangering another player, a member of the public or the Green Staff.

Particular attention should be paid to the possibility of balls from other areas of the golf course that may stray into your vicinity

If you strike a ball off line onto an adjacent hole or towards another person or persons on the course you **must** shout 'fore' to warn who may potentially be in danger.

The golf course covers many acres on which there is a number of slipping and tripping hazards, but in all cases if care is taken these risks are completely avoidable. Players should be particularly aware of these in wet or cold conditions.

Players are advised that golf shoes with well-maintained cleats help with avoiding slips; they also help your golf!

At all times players should take care when walking up or down banks.

Players should also ensure that they are prepared for reasonable eventualities on the course including extreme weather (cold, wet, windy or hot) and protect themselves appropriately. Remember you could be on the course for 4 or 5 hours.

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In wet conditions when walking use the buggy paths where possible especially between the 5<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> green and the 6<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> tees. Take care on any steps which may be slippery, if possible use the flattest area to access and leave any tee.

### Green Keeper Staff:

The Green Keeping Staff have priority at all times. Players should make sure that they are aware of your presence before you play your shot. The Green Keeping Staff are instructed to signal to players when it is safe to play.

### Use of buggies:

Buggies can be dangerous if driven without due care and attention. Please always drive the buggies with due consideration for your own safety as well as that of other passengers/players.

All buggies hired from the club must be operated in accordance with our golf buggy safety policy (displayed in the Pro shop and on each buggy).

In winter buggies should be driven on the buggy paths. When travelling from the 6<sup>th</sup> Tee back to the fairway use the buggy path back towards the 5<sup>th</sup> green and access the fairway through the gap near the shelter.

### PLAYING SHOTS:

Players must not tee off if the group in front is still in range, similarly they must not hit shots into the green if it is still occupied by other golfers.

### Adjacent Fairways:

A deviant ball can carry onto an adjacent fairway on every hole of the course and players are again reminded of their duty of care obligations in protecting other persons when playing their shots.

### Blind Tee & Fairway Shots

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Fairways are blind from the tee and players are advised not to hit their tee shots until they see the group in front approach the 1<sup>st</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> green

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> fairway shots to the green are blind and players must not hit to the green until they **hear the warning bell** rung by the group in front to signal that the green is clear and it is safe to proceed.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Fairways are blind from the tee and players are advised not to hit their tee shots until they see the group in front approach the 5<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> green

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Fairways are blind from the tee and players are advised not to hit their tee shots until they **hear the warning bell** rung by the group in front to indicate that the fairway is clear.

The 10<sup>th</sup> competition tee is a semi-blind shot and running alongside the hole is a public footpath which runs on the inside of the course boundary wall. Members before teeing off must be certain that the path is clear and it is safe to hit off. Precedence **must always** be given to members of the public using this internal footpath.

The 11<sup>th</sup> tee shot is a blind shot onto a raised level. It is good and accepted practice by the club and its members that a person from the golfing group playing this hole stand safely to one side on this raised level to give clearance to fellow golfers that it is safe to tee off.

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### **Steep Banks and Inclines:**

Players should be aware that there are steep banks and inclines on every hole on the course and they must ensure they are wearing suitable footwear; spikes should be in good repair and players are advised not to use soft cleats in winter months as they have a tendency not to grip so well in frosty conditions – players have a responsibility to themselves to avoid slipping on slopes and other awkward places.

### **Public footpaths and bridleways.**

Players are informed that there is a public footpath which runs from in front of the tee on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> hole and extends past the right hand side of 4<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> green around the back of the 17<sup>th</sup> green and in front of 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> tees. **Players must give way** to members of the public using this pathway and not play their shots until it is safe to do so.

Players are reminded that running along the boundary wall of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> holes internally is a public footpath and on the other side of the wall is a bridleway. Again **players must give way to** members of the public using this pathway and/or bridleway and not play their tee shots until it is safe to do so.

### **Adjoining properties**

Adjacent to the 3<sup>rd</sup> fairway on the right hand side are the Radcliffe Fold Cottages and this area is marked by out of bounds stakes. Players are asked to make every effort not to hit errant shots against these properties. If a player hits the cottages with an errantly struck golf ball this must be reported without fail to the club professional or the club manager.

Close to the back of the 10<sup>th</sup> green is Werneth Bungalow and players are asked to hit their shots into this green with extreme care bearing in mind the proximity of this property. Should an errant shot go over the wall surrounding the cottage and onto this property then this matter should be reported without fail to the club professional or the club manager. A ball going over the bungalow wall is out of bounds.

### **Public roadways**

Players should exercise caution when playing to the 11<sup>th</sup> green as running at the back of the green over the small boundary wall is a public highway used by vehicular traffic and pedestrians. Players should make every effort to keep their golf balls within the confines of the course and incidents of hitting a ball over the wall onto the highway should be reported.

### **Fertiliser and Insecticides etc. on the ground:**

Do not lick golf balls or fingers. Chemicals are regularly used on all golf courses and Players are advised to take heed of this warning and protect themselves. It is considered good practice to wash your hands in the clubhouse at the conclusion of your round.

### **SUSPENSION OF PLAY**

Players must protect themselves in Health and Safety matters especially should there be a danger from lightning when play must stop immediately. Rule 6-8 of the Rules of Golf makes it quite clear that a player is entitled to discontinue play if the player believes that there is a danger from lightning.

All players must adhere to the following Suspension of Play procedure.

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### **Dangerous Circumstances**

A suspension of play for a dangerous situation (e.g. lightening) will be signalled by a prolonged single blast on the klaxon operated from the Clubhouse. During a Competition, the Competition Organiser is responsible for sounding the klaxon. However, even if the klaxon is not sounded and the players believes that there is real risk of, or danger from, lightning then the player is entitled to proceed under the provision of Rule 6-8 and discontinue play.

During casual play, players have to proceed under Rule 6-8. This makes it the player's own responsibility to discontinue play when, in his/her opinion, a danger from lightening exists. It is unreasonable to expect the Club to monitor the course each and every day.

If the klaxon has been sounded, then a player is not entitled to override that decision and continue play. When the klaxon has been sounded for play to be suspended, players must discontinue play immediately. Every effort will be made to ensure the warning is sounded with sufficient time to allow for all competitors to evacuate the course prior to an electric storm striking the course

Upon the signal being given, all players must comply with these conditions. PENALTY for breach of this condition is DISQUALIFICATION.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Darkness, rain, fog and ice:

During inclement weather, the fact that the course has not been officially closed does not warrant that it is fit for play.

Therefore, members and visitors should themselves determine whether they consider it safe to play.

Players have a duty of care to behave in such a way that others may not be injured by their actions. They also have a duty of care to ensure that they do not injure themselves. All players play at their own risk and should do nothing to jeopardise the safety of themselves or others.

### **Review of policy.**

This document will be subjected to a full review annually by the clubs Health and Safety committee

Interim reviews will take place as and when required.

### **Actions**

It is the intention of the clubs H&S committee to review as soon as practicable the warning signs already placed on the course with a view to seeing if they are still fit for purpose and the possible need for additional warning signs to be placed in or on areas of the golf course where there may be a need to place them to warn golfers and members of the public of areas of a perceived risk or danger.

The club is seeking guidance from and permission from the Werneth Low War Memorial Trust and Tameside Local Authority about the wording and signage that can be used in an area that is protected as a country park.

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