



**HELSEBY GOLF CLUB LIMITED**  
**Towers Lane**  
**Helsby**  
**Cheshire**  
**WA6 0JB**

**BYE LAWS**

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## **BYE LAWS OF HELSBY GOLF CLUB LIMITED**

The following Bye Laws are intended to enhance the enjoyment of all Members and Visitors at Helsby Golf Club Limited (the “**Club**”) and to maintain acceptable standards throughout.

All Bye Laws are enforceable and have been approved by the Management Committee.

### **COURSE**

Day to day tee restrictions are displayed both on the notice boards in the clubhouse and on the 1st and 10th tees and must be adhered to at all times.

For safety reasons, members are strongly advised to play on the course only within the opening hours of the clubhouse.

All players on the course must observe the rules and etiquette of the game of golf.

Dogs are not allowed on the course.

### **Safety**

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 not to injure themselves.

Players should ensure that no one is standing close by or in a position to be hit by the club, ball or any stones, pebbles, twigs or the like when they make a stroke or a practice swing. Players should not play until the players in front are out of range.

Green Staff have priority over golfers and under no circumstances should anyone play a shot if they consider there is a danger to a member of staff. Golfers must only play their shots when the Green Staff have acknowledged their presence and moved to a safe area.

## **ADVERSE WEATHER**

### **Suspension of Play**

If there is a risk of lightning, play **MUST** be discontinued and players **MUST** proceed in accordance with Rule 6 – 8 of the Rules of Golf whether or not the klaxon has sounded.

The following signals are used for suspension of play:-

Discontinue play immediately: One prolonged blast of klaxon.

Play is suspended: Three short blasts of the klaxon repeated.

Resume play: Two short blasts of the klaxon repeated

### **Fog and reduced Visibility**

The fact that the course has not been officially closed does not warrant that it is fit for play.

If conditions are foggy and players are unable to see where the ball is likely to land –**THEY MUST NOT PLAY.**

## **PROTECTION OF THE COURSE**

Whilst the aim will always be to keep the course open to members there will be occasions when the course must be closed in order to protect it from long term damage. Members should refer to the Green Policy document which is available on the Club website.

### **Temporary Facilities**

Members should refer to the Green Policy document which is available on the Club website.

### **Closing the Course**

The Head Green Keeper, Chair of Green and individual Management Committee Members have the authority to close the course, or part of the course, when it is considered that it is not fit for play or considers that long term damage would result from play.

Once the decision has been taken that the course is to be closed the Information Board on the Professional's shop showing "**Course Closed**" will be displayed on the 1st and 10th Tees.

A review time will be set or when the course will be inspected by the decision-maker who, will ascertain if conditions have improved sufficiently to warrant the course being re-opened. Course closure information & playing restrictions will be communicated via the weather line. The time that the review will take place will be given to the Professional and the Office to enable them to inform members of the situation.

Players, who are on the course when the decision is taken to close the course, must stop play and leave the course.

### **PACE OF PLAY**

Players should play at a good pace. The Committee may establish pace of play guidelines that all players should follow.

It is a group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front. If it loses a clear hole and it is delaying the group behind, it should invite the group behind to play through, irrespective of the number of players in that group.

Where a group has not lost a complete hole but it is apparent that the group behind can play faster it should invite the faster moving group to play through.

If a player believes the ball to be lost or out of bounds, to save time, a provisional ball should be played.

Players searching for a ball should signal the players in the group behind them to play through as soon as it becomes apparent that the ball will not be easily found. They should not search for five minutes before doing so. Having allowed the group behind to play through, they should not continue to play until that group has passed and is out of range.

### **PRIORITY ON THE COURSE**

Unless otherwise determined by the Committee, priority on the course is determined by a group's place of play.

Priority on the tee is to be extended to the Captain, President and Lady Captain. On both Ladies' & Gentlemen's competition days, priority is to be extended to competitors.

Players in Board Knockout Competitions have priority on the first Tee.

Players playing social golf following a competition must leave a **clear** gap of at least one hole.

### **MOBILE PHONES**

Mobile phones must not be used for making or receiving calls either in the Clubhouse, or on the Course, except in a medical emergency. Similarly, other electronic devices can only be used so as to cause no disturbance to others.

## **INSURANCE**

All members are strongly advised to have Third Party Liability Insurance. In the event of a claim arising for damages or injury caused to a third party on any part of the Club or adjoining property the club will endeavour to identify the individual responsible for causing the damage or injury for the purposes of answering the claim.

## **CARE OF THE COURSE**

### **Bunkers**

Before leaving a bunker, a player should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints. Players should not climb up the face of the bunkers. Rakes should be left in the Bunker

### **Divots, Ball Marks and Spike Damage**

Through the green, a player should ensure that any turf cut or displaced is replaced at once and pressed down and that any damage to the putting green made by a ball is carefully repaired.

Damage to the putting green caused by golf shoe spikes should be repaired on completion of the hole.

### **Damage to Greens**

Players should ensure that when putting down the flagstick, no damage is done to the putting green and that they do not damage the hole by standing close to it in handling the flagstick or in removing the ball from the hole. The flagstick should be properly replaced in the hole before the players leave the putting green. Players should not damage the putting green by leaning on their putters, particularly when removing the ball from the hole.

### **Golf Carts/Buggies**

Players must not take trolleys or buggies up to the greens or between the green and the green side bunkers. Trolleys and buggies must not be taken onto tees. When approaches have white lines around them, trolleys and buggies must be kept outside the white lined areas. Use of buggies and trolleys shall be determined by the Head Greenkeeper and the Greens Committee and will be displayed on the website and noticeboard.

### **Practice Swings**

In taking practice swings, players should avoid causing damage to the course by removing divots.

### **Practice Facilities**

All practice facilities are available for use to members of Helsby GC and visitors who have paid an appropriate green fee on the day. In the event of course closure, golfers are asked to hit shots from the mats only, with the exception of putts (putting green) and bunker shots (practice bunker).

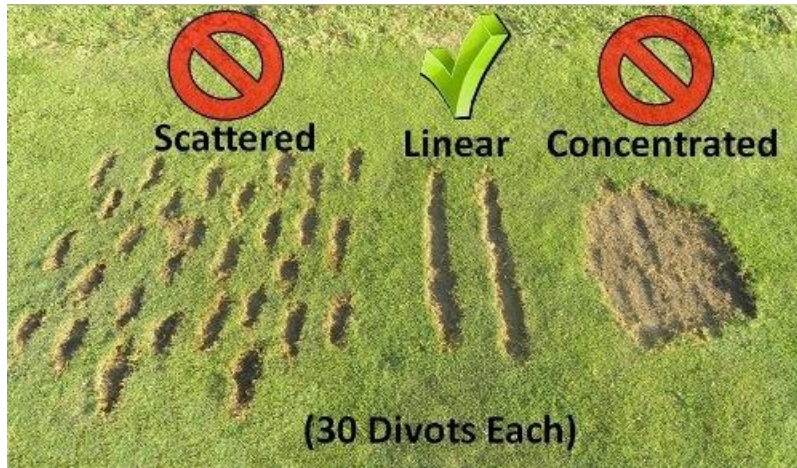
### **Putting Green**

Please avoid pitching lofted shots to the practice green when conditions are very wet. When ground conditions dictate, please use the range mat provided if you are likely to hit a pitch shot taking a divot. Avoid taking long swings with lofted wedges as the putting green borders the club house & car park.

### **Practice Ground (left of 10<sup>th</sup>)**

Golf balls will be available from the opening of the Pro Shop to 1 hour before closing during the summer months (Apr-Oct, 08:30 – 18:00, last balls 17:00).

Outside of these times golfers may use their own balls. Golfers may hit from the outdoor mats, the covered bays or the grass. For players hitting off grass, please hit from in front of the outdoor or covered bays; please do not walk out and hit shots from the middle of the Practice Ground. Be sure to group any divots taken as per the “linear” pattern below to aid turf recovery.



When hitting please direct all shots away from the pond, towards the large Oak with irons and beyond the pond for longer hitters with woods. For longer hitters hitting over the pond, please be aware of players playing the 10<sup>th</sup> hole.

Please do not hit shots in the vicinity of the ball collector when a collection is taking place or when the Practice Ground is being cut by the greenstaff/working party.

During Winter (Nov-Mar, or when ground conditions make collecting the balls using the range collector impractical) golf balls will not be available; during this time golfers will be able to use their own golf balls. Please be aware of others and your own safety when collecting your own golf balls.

#### **Pitching Area & Practice Bunker**

Members may use their own balls here at all times. Please refrain from hitting shots from the green. Please rake the bunker after use.

#### **Practice Ground (left of 15<sup>th</sup>)**

Members may use their own balls here at all times. It is not advised to use this area during busy times (e.g. competition days) as there is a danger of balls from the 15<sup>th</sup> hole coming onto the Practice Ground. Members are asked to keep all golf balls within the confines of the Practice Ground e.g. balls are not to be hit onto the golf course. Any divots taken should be organised in a "linear pattern", as above, to aid turf recovery.

### **DRESS CODE**

#### **Principles**

Standards of dress are laid down for the good guidance and benefit of all members and visitors.

The general principle is that Members and Visitors shall conform to the best of golf club standards both on and off the course at all times.

Recognised golfing attire of commonly accepted standards must be worn at all times by members and visitors alike.

Staff are authorised to require Members and Visitors failing to comply with the dress code and refusing to remedy the situation, to leave the Clubhouse or refrain from playing on the Course.

Members are authorised and requested to point out shortcomings to both fellow Members and Visitors.

## **Dress Code**

The following forms of dress are not permitted in the Club House or on the Course:

Denim jeans and tracksuits, cargo shorts or combat trousers.

Boxer, tennis, rugby and other non-tailored shorts, Beach tops, or football type shirts.

Slogan type tee shirts.

Trainers.

Gentlemen are permitted to wear smart, tailored shorts without external pockets, both on the course and in the clubhouse. Shirts must be tucked into trousers or shorts.

Ladies may wear tailored shorts of an acceptable length or smart trousers. Shirts and blouses, which must not be collarless, should be worn inside the trousers unless specifically designed to be worn outside. Socks should be predominantly one colour.

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> September each year, members and visitors may wear tailored golf shorts of knee length together with sports socks, up to 7.30 pm. This restriction shall not apply to children under 12 years of age wearing shorts, nor ladies wearing clothes such as culottes or divided skirts which may or may not be considered shorts.

Smart casual dress shall be worn throughout the clubhouse at all times with the exception of social events that the Management Committee designate as requiring black tie or jacket and tie for gentlemen in the lounge and dining area of the clubhouse after 7.30 pm.

Members and visitors may wear smart tailored golf shorts, not cargo, together with deck shoes or similar with or without socks in the area known as the Spike Bar and the patio area at all times. It is expected that any Member receiving a prize at a formal presentation taking place in the lounge, should be appropriately dressed for the occasion. This does not include the wearing of shorts or training shoes.

## **Dress on the Golf Course**

All players must conform to the guidelines illustrated in the Clubhouse, the Professional's shop and the first tee information board. Trousers must not be tucked into socks.

## **Dress in the Club House**

Golf shoes, muddy or wet trousers and rain attire are prohibited.

## **CAR PARKS**

Changing in the car park is strictly prohibited. Members and Visitors should use the locker rooms.

## **SMOKING**

The Club operates a strict no smoking policy. Smoking, including e-cigs is not permitted within all buildings. Smoking is permitted on the Golf Course and in the Car Parks.

## **COMPETITIONS**

### **Eligibility**

Members are not eligible to enter any competition until their subscription for the current year has been paid and they have a current CONGU handicap.

### **Measuring Devices**

Measuring devices are permitted in all competitions provided that they give distance information only.

## **RESTRICTIONS FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS**

Unless accompanied by a Full Member the following restrictions shall apply to Junior Members:

When commencing a round of social golf they shall give priority to players from any other class of membership.

Their use of the golf course and clubhouse is restricted as follows:

On weekdays during the period of summer holidays of Helsby High School, they must leave the golf course by 5.00pm and the clubhouse by 6.00pm. On weekdays at other times of the year they must leave the golf course by 7pm and the clubhouse by 7:30pm.

On Saturdays and Sundays during the months of April to October inclusive, they may commence play after 4:00pm and in addition if there is no competition, between the hours of 10:00am and 11:00am .

During the rest of the year weekend play is restricted to non competition Saturdays, when rounds must be started between the hours of 10:00am and 11:00am. They must leave the clubhouse by 7:30pm or within half an hour of completing their round, if after 7:00pm

## **MEMBERS' GUESTS AND OTHER VISITORS**

### **Members' Guests**

Full Members may introduce up to three guests per day at a concessionary rate determined from time to time by the Management Committee.

A Full Member may introduce the same guest up to four times in any one year at the concessionary rate.

In all other circumstances, guests may only be introduced by members on payment of the full visitors' Green Fee as determined by the Management Committee and posted on the notice board in the clubhouse.

An individual guest may only receive the concessionary guest rate a maximum number of 4 times per calendar year.

### **Other Visitors including Golfing Societies**

Visitors who are not introduced by a member must be members of a recognised golf club or golfing society.

Visitors who are not introduced by a member shall pay the visitors' Green Fee or in the case of a Golfing Society such other fee as agreed with the Secretary at the time of booking. Payment of the Green Fee shall entitle each visitor to play the course and use the facilities of the clubhouse.

### **Visitors' Insurance**

The Club accepts no responsibility for the actions of visitors on the golf course and all visitors are required to carry appropriate Third Party Insurance.

### **Liability insurance.**

Members shall inform their guests of this requirement, the Secretary shall inform societies, and individual visitors shall be informed on paying their Green Fees

**Reciprocal membership with Gog Magog Golf Club**

Any Full Member of Gog Magog Golf Club may on prior arrangement with the Company Secretary play the course and use the clubhouse facilities on up to two occasions per year free of charge.