

# PADESWOOD AND BUCKLEY GOLF CLUB

## BUGGY POLICY

### **Use of Ride-on Buggies on the Golf Course**

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to establish a standard for the safe operation of all ride-on buggies operated on the course at The Padeswood and Buckley Golf Club. (The Club).

The document also sets down the criteria to be applied and conditions to be met for their use.

The club has a number of buggies available for hire and they can be booked, in advance, by telephoning the Professional on 01244 543636. Any booking is subject to restrictions that may be imposed owing to the condition of the course. No guarantee can be given that a buggy will be available unless it has been pre-booked.

The Club also allows members and visitors to use their own buggies on the course subject to them obtaining the permission of The Club to do so and meeting the requirements set out in this document.

#### **Qualifications:**

In normal conditions there is no restriction on the use of ride on buggies other than in certain areas of the course (see Conditions of Use)

In some circumstances however it may be necessary to restrict their use. (See 'Buggy Restrictions')

Any person who operates a ride-on buggy on the golf course is deemed by so doing, to have the knowledge, training and skill to safely operate this vehicle and be fully accountable for their actions and the consequences thereof.

The safe operation of ride-on buggies on the course requires conscientious application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by this policy.

Ride-on buggies must be operated in accordance with the requirements of the following documents:

Golf Buggy Safety Policy

Golf Buggy Safe Working Practice / Conditions of Use

Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form.

The Club reserves the right to refuse permission if all of the conditions stipulated are not complied with.

It is Club policy that if the whole course or part of the course is open, ride on buggies may be used.

In exceptional weather conditions, the Greens Staff or the Professional may determine that unrestricted use of Buggies will or is likely to cause significant damage to the course. In these circumstances, buggy restrictions will apply.

Buggies will then be permitted, but only to those people who have a disability as defined under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and as amended 2005. Such persons must have lodged with the Club Secretary a Medical Certificate (see Appendix A) signed by a registered General Practitioner confirming that they are unable to play a full round of golf without the use of a buggy.

**If there are two such persons in the playing group, they must share a buggy.**

This policy is subject to review and amendment by the Club Council on a regular basis.

(Last Revised March 2011)

## **Golf Buggy Safety Policy**

The Club has a duty of care to all users of the golf course. The topography of certain areas of the course is such that the user of a ride-on buggy must show caution and prudence. It is also necessary for the Club to provide adequately safe means of access for all golfers including those given permission to use buggies. Moreover, the Club has to ensure the safety of golfers who do not wish to use ride-on buggies but who might be at risk from a mechanically defective ride-on buggy or its careless use. This duty of care also applies to members of the public using any rights of way.

To assist the safe employment of ride-on buggies all potential users (members and visitors) shall comply with the following conditions:

1. Ride-on buggies on The Padeswood and Buckley Golf Club property are only for the use of members, green fee paying visitors, entrants in competitions or other persons so authorised by either the Secretary or the Professional.

1. Ride-on buggies must be operated with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of pedestrians. Pedestrians must be afforded the right-of-way at all times.

1. The signs and instructions employed on the course to warn buggy riders of potential danger areas or, areas forbidden to ride-on buggies because of concerns about danger or, the potential to cause unacceptable wear and tear to the course, must be followed at all times.

1. Ride-on buggies must be operated and parked in such a manner that they do not impede or interfere with normal pedestrian or vehicular flow on roadways, ramps or pavements.

1. Ride-on buggy operators will be responsible for the security of the buggy on the property owned by the Club.

1. The Padeswood and Buckley Golf Club have no responsibility for ensuring the safe operation of ride-on buggies on or beyond the confines of the course and the club car parks and property other than those operated by their servants or agents. The Club will accept no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to any property other than that arising from the negligent use of a ride-on buggy by their servants or agents.

1. No ride-on buggy will be operated in excess of 15km per hour (9mph). All speed limits must be observed. When the ground is wet or muddy or when negotiating narrow bridges or routes, the maximum permissible speed is walking pace 3.3km per hour (2 mph). Operators must however ensure that they drive at the appropriate speed and in the appropriate manner for the prevailing conditions.

1. Ride-on buggies shall be used only between dawn and dusk.

1. Ride-on buggies must be operated in compliance with the common` rules of the road` regardless of whether they are operated on pavements or roadways.

1. Operators must stop the buggy at blind intersections and proceed with caution.

1. The consumption of alcohol and/or the improper use of drugs when using the Ride-on buggy is strictly prohibited.

2. . If in the opinion of The Secretary or Professional a person is in an unfit condition to use a buggy; she/he has the authority to immediately prohibit any such person from using or being carried on a ride –on- buggy. A written report will be submitted to the Club Council. Application for reinstatement of permission can only be made to the Club Council.

## **Golf Buggy Safe Working Practice /Conditions of Use**

Ride-on buggy operators must not be under the influence of alcoholic drinks or drugs.

Never allow children to drive the ride-on buggy

Persons driving a buggy must be over 17 years of age and have passed a driving test or hold a full valid driving licence.

Persons using a privately owned buggy must provide a copy of a valid certificate of insurance providing cover for third party risk of at least £1,000,000 (one million pounds)

### **BEFORE USE**

All operators of ride-on buggies, including privately owned buggies, must sign a Safety Policy Acknowledgement form before they are allowed to drive the buggy

A ride-on buggy shall only be used for the number of occupants it was designed to carry and only by people who are authorised to use one.

### **DURING USE**

- Do not move off until the occupants are seated**
- Always remain seated and hold on while the vehicle is in motion**
- Hands, feet and head must be kept inside the buggy at all times while the vehicle is in motion**
- Ride-on buggies must use permanent or temporary buggy paths where provided. They must not be driven off the paths into the rough or on to the fairway.**
- Where no path exists, the buggy should be driven in the rough whenever possible.**
- The vehicle must be used to progress the game and must not be driven up and down excessively, e.g., when looking for golf balls.**
- The vehicle must not be driven on tees, greens or the slopes leading up to them.**
- The vehicle must not be used within 5 metres of any green, bunker, ditch, pond or slopes leading to them except when using the designated bridges.**

- **When a buggy is operated on the riverbank along the 8th hole from the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> buggy path to the 9<sup>th</sup> tee and from the 9<sup>th</sup> tee to the 150yd marker post on the right of the 9<sup>th</sup> fairway. The maximum speed on these sections is walking pace (3.3km per hour / 2mph).**
- **Check the area behind the vehicle before reversing**
- **Always set the parking brake before leaving the vehicle even on flat ground.**
- **Always consider the terrain, existing vehicular and pedestrian traffic conditions as well as environmental factors that may affect your ability to operate the vehicle safely.**
- **Drive the vehicle only as fast as the terrain and safety considerations allow.**
- **To avoid tipping over, drive the buggy straight up and down severe slopes, not across them.**
- **Slow down before corners.**
- **All turns must be executed at reduced speeds.**
- **Avoid sudden stops or changes of direction that may result in loss of control.**
- **Drive at a speed appropriate for the conditions and terrain.**
- **Brake gently and progressively.**
- **Be extra careful and drive slowly when the course is wet and muddy.**

**Buggies are not allowed in the following areas: -**

- **On the fairway or in the rough on any hole that has a permanent or temporarily designated buggy path or route.**
- **To the right of the 9<sup>th</sup> green**
- **To the left of the 17<sup>th</sup> green**
  
- **On the 18<sup>th</sup> hole. buggies to use the roadway to the left of the 18<sup>th</sup> hole.**
- **On any area that is visibly wet, marked 'ground under repair', or areas marked as prohibited to buggies.**

## **Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form**

**All golfers must complete both this form  
prior to operating a Golf Buggy**

Any person who operates a ride-on buggy on The Padeswood and Buckley Golf Club premises is deemed, by so doing, to have the knowledge, training and skill to safely operate the vehicle and shall be fully accountable for their actions and consequences thereof.

The safe operation of ride-on buggies requires conscientious application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by this policy.

**Name of User:**

**Address:**

By signing below I acknowledge that:

I have read and agree to abide by The Padeswood and Buckley Golf Club Buggy – Golf Buggy Conditions of Use.

I understand the terms and conditions of The Padeswood and Buckley Golf Club - Golf Buggy Safety Policy

I have been given the opportunity to ask questions related to this Policy

I am aware of the areas where I am unable to take a ride-on buggy

I will ensure that the buggy will be maintained and operated in accordance with The Padeswood and Buckley Golf Club - Golf Buggy Safety Policy

Users with Medical Certificates only

I possess and have produced a copy of certified evidence that I have a disability within the meaning of the Disability Discrimination Act that prevents me from playing golf without the use of a ride-on buggy.

Users with private buggies only

I have lodged with the Secretary a copy of my valid insurance policy to cover liability for risks to third parties of at least £1,000,000 (one million pounds).

I agree to indemnify The Padeswood and Buckley Golf Club against all claims costs and demands made against The Padeswood and Buckley Golf Club arising out of or in connection with the use of the golf buggy.

Signature of User.....Date.....

Signature of Secretary/Professional.....Date.....

**Users of Golf Buggies do so at their own risk. The Padeswood & Buckley Golf Club will not accept any liability for any loss or damage to the golf buggy or any other property arising from the negligence of the club or any of its servants or agents**

## **Checklist for users of Ride-on Buggies**

### **Know the controls and how to use them**

Ignition switch and immobiliser key (where provided)

Accelerator

Footbrake

Parking brake – Set the brake before leaving the ride-on buggy

Reversing Control

### **Know your driving conditions**

Ride-on buggies can only be used for the number of occupants it was designed to carry and by those authorised to do so

Where permanent or temporary buggy paths are provided buggies must stay on those paths

Do not take the buggy on the areas of the course where prohibitive signs are placed.

The vehicle must not be driven up and down the course when looking for golf balls

The vehicle must not be used on tees or within 5 metres, greens or slopes leading up to them

The vehicle must not be used within 5 metres of or, on the slopes leading to any bunkers, ponds or ditches (except when crossing designated bridges)

Always consider the terrain, existing vehicular and pedestrian traffic conditions, as well as environmental factors that may affect your ability to operate the vehicle safely

Drive the vehicle only as fast as the terrain and safety considerations allow

To avoid tipping over, drive buggies straight up and down slopes

Slow down before corners.

All turns must be executed at reduced speeds

Avoid sudden stops or change of direction that may result in loss of control

**Problems on the course**

**Avoid wet and muddy areas, drive slowly, and be in control at all times. Always drive up and down slopes not across them. Stay well away from ditches, ponds, bunkers etc.**

**Appendix A**

**MEDICAL FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT'S DOCTOR**

I Dr.....

of.....

.....

**Certify that I have examined** .....

of.....

.....  
**I am of the opinion that he/she has a disability within the meaning of the Disability  
Discrimination Act 1995 and is unable to play a full round of golf without the use  
of a motorised ride-on- buggy.**

**Signed.....**

**Date.....**

**Practice Stamp**