



Birchwood Golf Club

Covid 19 Guidance Document

For our safe return to golf

PLAY SAFE

STAY SAFE



PGA Professional



Prior to the reopening of Birchwood Golf Club I have spent the last week or so highlighting and recommending measures to be put in place to ensure that when we are allowed to return, we can do so in a safe manner. This document focuses on the safety of you the members/visitors and that of the staff at the golf club. This has been done using the guidelines set by the PGA and England Golf alongside the R&A. It will enable us to follow the government's social distancing guidelines and maintain your safety.

In order that you all adhere to these guidelines and procedures, please read this document thoroughly, as this will be used as the framework for how we can operate certainly in the short term.

Certain aspects of this document will be reviewed and modified as and when further guidelines are issued by the relevant golfing bodies and the government itself.

This will then be updated and communicated.

Booking of Tee Times

Traditionally we have a 14 day booking window for Members of Birchwood Golf Club and a 7 day for Playmore Golf members this will now be reduced to a 7 day booking window for Members of Birchwood Golf Club and 5 days for Playmore Golf Members.

This is a short term measure as we return to golf to allow everyone a fair opportunity to play golf after a long lay off. This will be reviewed on a regular basis as lockdown measures improve in order to return to booking windows prior to lockdown.

Tee times will be changed from 8 minute to 10 minute intervals.

When booking your tee time, the names of all players should be entered on to that start time. As to whether this will be 2,3 or 4 ball tee times, further clarification will be made by the relevant golfing bodies and this will be updated.

Members must book their tee times these following methods only.

Use the ClubV1 Members app, the ClubV1 (Howdidido), via the BRS tee booking system or via the telephone by ringing the Professional Shop on 01925 825216.

Members will not be allowed to simply just turn up and play in order for us to maintain social distancing measures and maintain the safety of players that have booked to play.

All players must tee off from the 1st hole, and at least 1 member of each group must report to the Professional Shop prior to commencing play.

Tee times for members will be open till 8pm rather than 6pm.

We request that all members be considerate when advance booking tee times as there are a limited of tee slots available.

All players' names should be entered on the tee booking for the Professional Shop to monitor.

If members are trying to book tee times and are struggling to do so, please feel free to contact me at the Professional Shop to see if I can help you out in anyway.

Depending on when we have the date for our return, the booking window for visitors to come and play the golf course will be reduced to 3 days for visitors who book online via our website, or 2 days via Tee off Times.

Competition tee times will initially stay as planned until we know the date of return, and upon conversations with relevant sections.

Arrival at the Golf Club

All golfers are asked to arrive no more than 20 minutes before your tee time.

You will need to change your shoes in the car park and maintain social distancing in the car park at all times.

All golfers must then check in at the Professional Shop and follow instructions set out from the shop.

Professional Shop & Tee Time Check In

The Professional Shop will resume service to ensure that members are looked after whilst playing at the golf course. It is extremely important that 1 golfer from each group makes contact with the Professional Shop prior to playing in order for us to check you in.

The Professional Shop will not accept cash unless necessary.

Outside the shop will be floor taping in place to designate where people will need to line up prior to entering the Pro Shop, whilst maintaining social distancing and the 2m gap.

- **A sanitizer station will be available outside the Pro Shop, please use this prior to entering the shop.**
 - **Only 2 people are allowed in the shop at any one time.**

- - Floor marking will be in place inside the shop to guide you around the shop.
 - -The floor marking will flow in a 1 way system around the shop.
- There will be a line in front of the counter where members will not be allowed to cross.
- - A spit screen will be in place on the shop counter to protect staff and members.
- - Please follow the signs in the shop and outside the shop guiding you to the 1st tee area.

Practice Facilities

The practice facilities will remain open, you will be required to use your own golf balls and make sure you pick up your balls after use.

Practice Facilities will be limited to 1 person in the netting area, and will be for the use of players from the same tee time.

No more than 4 players will be allowed on the putting green at any one time.

No more than 2 people will be allowed on the chipping green and main practice area at any one time.

Golf Course

On the golf course certain changes have been made to make the game safe for you. Below is a guide to what has changed.

- All flagsticks will be in the holes, but you will not be allowed to touch them
- All holes will have an inner disc that will stop the ball from falling below the level of the lip, this allows you to remove the ball without touching the hole cup or flagstick
 - All golfers are required to stay 2m apart on the course
 - All ball cleaners will be covered and taped and they should not be used
- All rakes have been removed from bunkers, you will be required to either use your club to rake the bunker or take a rake from outside the shop, you will then be the designated raker in your group. Each rake will be wiped down after use by the Pro Shop.
- In line with England Golf Guidelines you will be able should you wish to, take a preferred lie in the bunker within a foot of the original lie no closer to the hole.
 - The water fountain on the 8th is out of use and will be covered.
 - All benches will be taped off and should not be used.
 - The spray machine will be out of use and switched off.

Competitions

All competitions will be subject to approval by the golfing bodies and new schedules will be issued as and when we know what we are allowed to do for each section of the golf club.

Office

The Clubhouse will remain closed apart from both locker rooms. Should you wish to contact Ann in the meantime you should do so via email or by phone on 01925 818819.

Locker Rooms

Both locker room external doors will remain closed and will be opened by the Professional staff upon asking at the Professional Shop. The locker room will be open from 8am-5pm.

The shower areas will be closed for use and roped off.

In the inner corridor prior to entering the internal door you will find a hand sanitizer station, you are asked to use this prior to entering the locker room.

The locker room is not to be used to get changed in, and you should look to keep your clubs at home in the short term.

The locker rooms are really to be used for toilet purposes only, and you should exit the locker room as quick as you can.

Buggy Containers

For anyone that has a buggy, you are only allowed to use this as a single person and you should not carry golf bags on the buggy for other players unless you are from the same household.

Club buggies will be out of use for the first week, and then will be only allowed for rent for the use by 1 person only unless you are from the same household.

Upon entering the buggy container, you should sanitize your hands and you should make sure you have your own sanitizer to do this.

Trolley Rental

Pull trolleys and Electric Trolley rental will still operate, all areas of the trolleys will wiped and sanitized after use.

On completion of your round

Following your round of golf, please ensure that you go back to your cars and leave the golf club immediately to avoid social gathering around the clubhouse area and in and around the car park.

First Aid

Due to the bar area being closed, the clubs defibrillator will be removed to the Professionals Shop.

Summary

All of these procedures and guidelines have been put in place to make sure you as members are able to play the game that you enjoy and love.

These measures will be constantly reviewed dependent upon changes on guidelines by the golfing bodies and the government.