



Trentham Park Golf Club

Adverse Weather Policy

Adverse Weather Condition Policy Trentham Park Golf Club consider the safety of its Members, Guests and staff the top priority during inclement weather. Weather reports and local conditions are monitored during adverse weather conditions. In the event of adverse weather immediately prior to casual play, a major competition or event, then the Club Official/professional/manager or green staff may at their discretion close the 1st Tee, until it is deemed the conditions have past.

Policy for Golf Course Play in Fog

Objectives

To ensure safe golf playing conditions when fairways and rough are obscured by fog in order to reduce the chance of injury from golf balls in flight to players of golf, staff and the general public.

Policy

Trentham Park Golf Club (TPGC) can experience all types of fog, but mainly Ground, and Valley Fog. Given the nature of our Club's location we have a policy to cover these situations.

1. Competition play:

a. In designated club competitions play must always start from the 1st tee. If the 7th green is not fully visible from the Black 1st Tee Marker play will be suspended.

Suspension of play will be clearly identified with one long blast with a fog horn, at this point all competitors must stop play immediately and await instructions or return to the club. Play will resume with the sound of two long blasts with a fog horn. All competitors will be given ample time to resume play.

2. Non-competition play:

a. If the 7th green, 12th green is not fully visible play will not be allowed from the 1st tee. The 7th Green, 12th green must be clearly visible from the 1st Black tee marker. If in doubt please ask a member of staff, professional, manager.

3. Suspension of play

a. If no one is playing on the course when the decision is made to suspend play a 'notice will be placed on the 1st tee.

b. If visibility becomes limited on any part of the course where an equivalent distance to the view of the 7th green, 12th green from the 1st tee marker (approx. 200 yards) is not established it is the **individual responsibility** of all golfers to cease play and report the condition as soon as practical to the professional, manager or staff. At this point there may be other golfers in front or staff working within the site.

c. All golfers must not commence or continue play when the decision to cease play has been made by the Club.

4. Decision Maker

An authorised Club Official must have information regarding the level of visibility at the 1st tee.

The authorised Club Official's decision will be determined by the visual clarity the 7th green, 12th green from the 1st Black tee marker. The flag and outline of the 7th green must be fully visible from the 1st Black tee marker for the cessation or continuance of play. The authorised Club Official must decide on whether visibility is suitable for the commencement or cessation of play.

The decision of the authorised Club Official is final regarding the suitability of weather conditions for playing golf.

Authorised Club Officials list

General Manager, Head Green Keeper or Deputy, Head Professional, Assistant Professional, Committee Member, Board Member.

5. The commencement or resumption of play

a. In conditions of swirling fog visibility to the 7th Green must be consistent over a continuous minimum period of 15 minutes.

b. An authorised Club Official will be the final arbiter of when conditions improve and play can be restarted safely.

Appendix to the fog policy

Background to the policy

Trentham Park Golf Club is situated in a valley and is prone in the winter months to dense Valley fog.

However, such weather conditions can also occur throughout all seasons of the year. We need to ensure that we do not expose people to undue risk at times that can be described as hazardous conditions.

Hazardous conditions on a golf course in this context can be considered as when golfers and the public are in danger of being hit by a golf ball in flight in poor visibility weather conditions. The trajectory of a golf ball can be considered hazardous if it be towards the fairway, rough or undergrowth where golfers, the public and animals could be present.

This is highlighted by the two following quotations:

Extract from article by Michael Shaw, Secretary to the National Golf Clubs' Advisory Association.

"Golf is a game which is extremely difficult to play in fog. If a golfer hits a shot 'blind' into fog and hits a player or member of the public they could well be found negligent and held personally liable for the injuries afflicted. The complainant would be contributory negligent on the same basis. In addition the club could theoretically be sued, but only if it had knowingly allowed play in hazardous conditions, but once again the same rules regarding contributory negligence would be present.

An equally serious problem exists if an employee of the club is injured in such circumstances. He could not be said to be guilty of contributory negligence and could claim against the club for negligently allowing play.

Therefore, when visibility is limited in fog to the point at least where players cannot see where their driven golf ball is likely to end, they should not be permitted on the course."

Lightning Policy

Trentham Park Golf Club Board and Management Team consider the safety of its Members and Guests the top priority during inclement weather. Weather reports and local conditions are monitored during storm warnings. During **Competition play** If it is decided that it is unsafe to continue to play golf as a storm approaches, the Professional Shop will sound a klaxon to call all golfers off the course and into the clubhouse.

Although the Club will take every precaution to ensure the safety of players during a lightning or thunder storm. In **General Play** it is a player's own responsibility to discontinue play when in his/her opinion lightning is in the vicinity.

If there is a risk of lightning play **MUST** be discontinued. Trentham Park Golf club is not responsible for the safety of any golfer on the course and it is therefore your responsibility to remove yourself from any situation which you deem dangerous. If you see lightning or hear the klaxon (three short blasts) the following will apply:

Proceed immediately to the clubhouse

Do not continue to play golf and do not seek shelter under trees. Trees do not protect you from lightning.

- During competitions, if there is a lightning risk, play will be suspended and players must leave the course.
- Where play is automatically suspended on the sound of the klaxon, a player may not override the Policy decision to evacuate the course.
- Players should stop play and seek shelter any time they believe lightning threatens them, even if the klaxon has not been sounded.

Although the Club will take every precaution to ensure the safety of players during a thunder storm, it is a player's own responsibility to discontinue play when in his/her opinion lightning is a threat. It is not always possible to monitor conditions on the entire course and players have a duty of care to themselves. They should therefore

Trentham Park Golf Club recommend that all golfers adhere to the lightning policy. Failure to do so is at your own risk and Trentham Park Golf Club accepts no liability for any golfer who fails to co-operate with this policy.

It is not the responsibility of staff to retrieve clubs, equipment or trolleys from the course during a lightning storm where play has been suspended, as their safety may be jeopardised.

Please note that golf buggies do **NOT** give protection from lightning.

In case of emergency

If someone is hit by lightning, call emergency services – they will need help as soon as possible. If you know first aid, apply it – you will not receive an electric shock. A lightning strike is not usually instantly fatal, victims' hearts and/or breathing may stop however, so quick application of CPR will likely save their life.

LIGHTNING IS A SEVERE HAZARD THAT MUST BE VIEWED SERIOUSLY