

Policy for the use of Ride-on Buggies on the Golf Course (updated 14th October 2019)

Introduction

The purpose of this policy document is to set down the minimum criteria to be applied and conditions to be met in order to establish a standard for the safe operation of all ride-on buggies on the course at Windermere Golf Club. This document applies to users of both club-owned and privately-owned ride-on golf buggies. A copy of this policy is available to all Windermere Golf Club members and visitors and is posted on the www.windermeregolfclub.co.uk website.

Who can use a golf buggy

- 1. Use of a ride-on buggy will not be allowed unless authorised by the Club and will be restricted to members, visitors and guests.
- 2. Privately owned buggies may only be used with prior permission of the Club Manager upon meeting the criteria detailed within this policy.
- 3. No person under the age of 18 may operate a buggy.

The policy covers those who need vehicular assistance to navigate the course including those with a recognised disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010 and those who although not officially recognised as being disabled still require vehicular assistance to enable them to play golf.

The Equality Act (2010)

The Equality Act 2010 concerns itself with anyone who has a disability as defined by this legislation. Under the Act, all premises, including private/community sports clubs, have a legal duty to produce a policy which allows equal access to individuals who have a recognised disability as defined by Section 6 of the Act. This policy document is part of Windermere Golf Clubs response to this legislation to ensure that all reasonable action is taken and arrangements made to allow those with a disability to play Golf.

Whilst a buggy for a disabled golfer cannot be guaranteed, disabled golfers will be given priority when booking a buggy to play golf.

Policies

The safe operation of ride-on buggies on the course at Windermere Golf Club requires conscientious application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed in this policy document. Ride-on buggies must be operated in accordance with the requirements of the following sections of this policy:

Appendix 1: Windermere Golf Club ride-on Golf Buggy Conditions of Use

Appendix 2: Windermere Golf Club Ride-on Buggy Safe Operating Practices

Appendix 3: Windermere Golf Club Ride-on Buggy Route Guidance

A hard copy of these appendices will be made available to each authorised ride-on buggy user and placed on the Windermere Golf Club notice board (in clubhouse foyer) and on the Windermere Golf Club website (www.windermeregolfclub.co.uk). The appendices will be updated and re-issued as and when course conditions change. It is the duty of the buggy user to check with the Club Manager that they are in possession of the current up-to-date appendices before they take a ride-on buggy on the golf Course.

The Club Manager reserves the right to withdraw authorisation for use of a ride-on buggy on the course at Windermere Golf Club if these requirements are not fully complied with.



Windermere Golf Club owned ride-on buggies

The use of all Windermere Golf Club owned ride-on buggies:

- Will require to completion of a Windermere Golf Club owned ride-on golf buggy acknowledgement and acceptance Form (Appendix 4).
- The required form can be obtained from the Club Manager who reserves the right to withdraw authorisation if the conditions for its use are not fully complied with.

Privately owned ride-on buggies

The use of all privately-owned ride-on buggies:

- Requires formal authorisation by the Club Manager, who will issue written approval for the use of a privately-owned buggy.
- Will be restricted to members and visitors demonstrably having a disability to play golf unless aided by the use of a ride on golf buggy certified annually by their registered medical practitioner or Physician.
- Will require the completion of a Windermere Golf Club privately-owned ride-on golf buggy acknowledgement and acceptance form (Appendix 5)
- Are for the sole use of the owner only and under no circumstance are they to be lent or hired out to third parties.
- The required forms can be obtained from the Club Manager who reserves the right to withdraw authorisation if the conditions for its use are not fully complied with.

Privately owned ride-on buggy owners

- Must provide a copy of a valid certificate of insurance providing cover for public liability & third party risk
 of at least £1,000,000 (one million pounds).
- Use their privately owned buggies entirely at their own risk. Windermere Golf Club will not accept liability for any loss or damage to the privately owned buggies or any other property arising from the negligence of the Club or any of its servants or agents.

Privately owned ride-on buggy storage

Windermere Golf Club provides the facility to keep, or store privately owned ride on buggies on the Golf Club premises in the designated area next to the greenkeepers' sheds. An application form for the storage of privately owned ride on buggies (*Appendix 6*) should be completed and approved in writing by the Club Manager. An annual charge of £100.00 per buggy will be due on 1st March each year for all privately owned buggies that are kept/stored on the Clubs premises. Privately owned buggies are kept/strored entirely at the owners own risk and Windermere Golf Club cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to the privately owned buggies.

Administration

In respect of all golf buggies, Club Office Staff will retain on file a fully completed and signed "Ride-on Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form" together with any documents requested as per appendixes 1-6. Club Office Staff will also ensure that staff in the Golf shop are in possession of an up to date copy of the register of authorised buggy users for whom documents are held on file and to whom authorisation has been granted for use of a Privately Owned Buggy.



APPENDIX 1 Windermere Golf Club Ride-on Golf Buggy Conditions of Use

To promote safe use of ride-on golf buggies all users should comply with this code of conduct. The Club Manager and shop staff has the authority to immediately prohibit any individual from using a ride-on buggy. Application for reinstatement of permission can only be made to the Management Committee.

Windermere Golf Club has no responsibility for ensuring the safe operation of ride-on buggies on or beyond the confines of the Windermere Golf Course and club car parks. 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 employees.

Before Use

- All drivers of ride-on buggies must sign a Safety Policy Acknowledgement form (Appendix 4 or 5) before they are allowed to drive a buggy.
- A ride-on buggy shall only be used for the number of occupants it is designed to carry and only by persons who are authorised to use one. All drivers must 18 years plus.

During Use

- Demonstrate the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of other course users and give right-of-way to pedestrians at all times.
- Not drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Not move off until the occupant(s) is seated.
- Always remain seated and hold on while the vehicle is in motion.
- Hands, feet and head must be kept inside the buggy and parameters at all times whilst the vehicle is in motion.
- Always to carry and refer to a map of routes and hazards which will be issued when you have permission to use a ride-on buggy.
- The route may be defined by various markers in the form of signs, posts or plates or similar and must be adhered to.
- The vehicle must be used to progress the game and must not be driven off the approved routes to look for golf balls.
- Ride-on buggies must not be driven in prohibited areas.
- The vehicle must not be used on or within 5 metres of tees, greens or the slopes leading up to them.
- The buggy must not be driven or parked within 5 metres of any greens, ditches or slopes leading to them.
- The vehicle must not be used within 5 metres of any ditches or ponds or slopes leading up to them except when using designated paths and bridges.
- Check the area behind the vehicle before reversing.
- Set the parking brake before leaving the vehicle.
- 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. Buggies should not be driven faster than the terrain
 and safety considerations allow.
- To avoid tipping over, drive the buggy straight up and down severe slopes.
- Slow down before corners and execute all turns at reduced speeds.
- Avoid sudden changes of direction that may result in loss of control.
- Be extra careful when the course is wet and muddy.
- Adhere to mandatory routes defined in the Windermere Golf course Ride-on Buggy Route Guidance (Appendix 3) and course signage.

After Use

When the vehicle is left unattended, turn the operating key to the off position, remove the key and engage the parking brake.



APPENDIX 2 Windermere Golf Club Ride-on Buggy Safe Operating Practices

It is the duty of the ride-on buggy user to adhere to the restrictions and mandatory routes defined within the Windermere Golf Course Ride-on Buggy Route Guidance (*Appendix 3*) at all times.

Drivers' Competence

- No person under the age of 18 years old is permitted to drive a ride-on buggy.
- All ride-on buggy drivers must demonstrate that they can locate and competently operate:
 - Ignition switch and immobiliser key.
 - Accelerator.
 - o Footbrake.
 - o Parking brake (this should always be engaged before leaving the ride-on buggy).
 - o Reversing Control.

Storage and Maintenance

- All buggies stored at Windermere Golf Club must have approval in writing from the Club Manager. This
 will only be obtained upon completing and meeting the criteria set out in the application and terms for
 storage space for privately owned ride on buggies (appendix 6).
- All buggies stored at Windermere Golf Club must be maintained in a clean and tidy state and must not leak oil. This is the responsibility of the owner of buggy.
- All users of ride-on buggies must sign a Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form (Appendix 4 or
 5) before they are allowed to operate a ride-on buggy on Windermere golf course.
- A ride-on buggy shall only be used by people who are authorised by the Club Manager.
- Ride-on buggy users will be responsible for the security of ignition keys for the period that the buggy storage is used.
- Windermere Golf Club staff may have the need to move any ride-on buggies left at the club, due to an
 emergency situation, safety issue or logistical issue. Therefore; users of privately-owned buggies must
 deposit a spare ignition key, a key to any security chain or wire plus details of any immobilisation device
 with the Club Manager. By doing so they have acknowledged that they have tacitly given their permission
 that Windermere Golf Club staff can move their ride-on buggy if required without recourse to contacting
 them.

email: office@windermeregc.co.uk website: www.windermeregolfclub.co.uk



APPENDIX 3 Windermere Golf Club Ride-on Buggy Route Guidance

Course Conditions & Buggy Restrictions

Windermere Golf Club was not designed for buggy use. There are numerous hazards to vehicle use including raised greens, tees, sloping aspects to fairways, ditches and other water hazards as well as narrow paths and steep drop offs. This makes navigating safely around the course a greater challenge than many others. 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 caution and prudence must be shown by all users of ride-on buggies.

At certain times the greenkeeper on duty may determine that the general condition of the course, ground conditions or weather is such that safety on or the condition of the course may be unacceptability compromised if a ride on buggy is used. This might apply to the whole or just part of the course. Potentially unsuitable conditions include water logging, frost, snow etc. During any period of restriction, the clubs hire buggies may be withdrawn from any service and the use of privately owned buggies will not be permitted.

The precise timing, details and duration of any restrictions will be decided by the greenkeeping team on a daily basis and as far as possible, notice will be given. Due to the unpredictable nature of the course conditions, this may be on the morning of play. Where such conditions arise, the Club's staff will review the situation on at least a twice-daily basis.

The Club recognises that some golfers may be unable to play if ride on buggies are not permitted; therefore players who demonstrably have a disability to play golf unless aided by the use of a ride on golf buggy will be allowed to use a ride on buggy. Users may be required to use a specific route and or find that a shortened course is in operation due to safety restrictions. A certified note from the golfers registered medical practitioner or Physician dated within the last 12 months will need to be presented as well as proof of third party and public liability insurance cover (min. £1,000,000) before being permitted to use a ride on buggy in this situation.

The Club recognises the vast differences in weight and construction of different types of ride on buggy. As such, it may be the case that restrictions could be imposed on the larger and heavier two seat EX GO type buggies while single seat buggies are permitted on the golf course.

Windermere Golf Club will endeavour to ensure that restrictions placed on buggy users will be kept to a minimum. Information about restrictions on the use of a ride-on buggy are displayed on:

- The Windermere Golf Club website homepage "Course Status" section: www.windermeregolfclub.co.uk
- Signage on the course

It is the responsibility of all ride-on buggy users to check for any restrictions before they commence their golf.

Consideration for course

In dry conditions, when the ground is hard; buggies will be permitted to use the fairways. In wet conditions, when the ground is soft, it is preferable for ride-on buggies to be predominantly driven at the edge of the fairway or in the semi-rough (avoiding deep rough) wherever possible.

In these circumstances the ride-on buggy should be stopped and parked at the side of the fairway or in the semi-rough and the buggy user should walk on to the fairway to play the shot.

Some disabled golfers may not be able to avoid driving the buggy on the fairways even in wet conditions. In such cases they should attempt to:

- drive to the fairway at 90 degrees from the semi-rough and return to the semi-rough using the most direct route.
- avoid travelling the same path across the fairway to avoid excessive damage.



Windermere Golf Club ride-on buggy route guidance (informed by full risk assessment of course)

Hole Route Guidance

Ride-on buggy users must ensure that they comply with any buggy restrictions and with relevant course signage.

1st Hole.

The route from the 1st tee should be directly up the centre of the fairway to the right of the marker post. Under no circumstances should a buggy be driven up the left hand side of the fairway. After the second shot the buggy should be directed to the left side of the fairway to avoid the **obvious steep slope (see signs) 65 yards out from the green**. Follow the path up to the 2nd tee and park to the left of the green. The player would then need to leave the buggy, walking 50 yards to the green down a slight slope to complete the hole.

2nd Hole.

From the 1st green; exit to second tee area, follow a path up to RHS of the 2nd tee. Park the buggy in the area indicated and walk up to the tee. Exit from the teeing area is directly down the centre of the fairway, down the slope then to the left side of the fairway, to the greenside, proceed along the **left** side of the green to park at the back of the green.

3rd Hole.

Access to the 3rd tee is relatively easy for the player after parking his buggy. After the tee shot the player should proceed directly down the centre of the fairway to the next green. Follow a route to the right side of the green, watching out for play off the 4th tee, and park in the area indicated. Do not take the LHS route past the green due to the steep side slope.

4th Hole.

The player should walk up the astro turf path at the front of the tee. The player should keep to the centre of the fairway. At the 100 yard point he **must go to the left of the slope** then cross in front of the green to the RHS and park in the area indicated.

5th Hole.

After the tee proceed down the path and at the bottom of the slope keep to the centre of the fairway in the direction of the green. Passing the green to the left and following the pathway to park to the side of the 6th tee.

6th Hole.

After the 6th tee shot proceed down the path to the left of the **slope extremely slowly**, following the LHS of the fairway past the bell and close to the pond. After the pond, cross in front and to the RHS of the green and park in the area indicated alongside the 7th tee.

7th Hole.

This is a straightforward hole and the player must proceed directly down the centre of the fairway, bearing left at the approach to the green, parking behind the green. After completion of the hole the buggy is driven down the path to the junction at the bottom of the hill. It is not possible to drive the buggy up the hill to the 8th tee so it must be parked at this point.



8th Hole.

From the parking area at the junction of the paths the player has to negotiate the climb by walking up the astro turf path, to the tee area. Proceeding down the pathway to the fairway the player **must** for the sake of safety follow the right side of the fairway. (If a wayward shot to left side of the fairway has been played then the buggy must be parked and the next shot negotiated by proceeding on foot from the buggy). After playing the shot from the fairway the player must drive the buggy following the signs around the back of the 9th tee and then across in front of the ladies 9th tee **not on it,** parking to the rear of the 8th green

9th Hole.

Walking from the buggy onto the tee will not present a problem and after executing the shot the player will proceed directly down the hill to the beck. It is preferred by the Head Greenkeeper that the buggy should use the **right** hand astro turf bridge over the beck, **please be aware of play from the 7**th **tee** then proceed up the of the fairway to park on the hard standing to the front of the water fountain by the 10th tee.

10th Hole.

After the tee shot the player proceeds down the hill crossing the astro turf bridge and then going to the RHS of the green. If the shot from the tee is sliced and the ball comes to rest at the far right side the player must be warned that after crossing the bridge and possibly proceeding in the buggy to the ball he must watch out for shots played from the 11th tee. Assuming the player has played the second shot they must then drive towards the RHS of the green, park the buggy and putt out, exiting from the green by the RHS, following the signs to the parking area for the 11th tee.

Under no circumstances must a buggy be taken along the sides of the green and when traveling along the front of the green use the flat area at the bottom of the slope.

11th Hole.

Under no circumstances must a buggy be taken to the 11th Tees.

Please park the buggy in the indicated area and walk to the tees. After the tee shot proceed in a direct line following the centre of the fairway aiming for the middle of the green, because of the severity of the slope in front of the green the centre line is the one to take. **The buggy park is on the LHS of the 11**th **green not front of the 12**th **tee men's tee.**

12th Hole.

After playing this tee shot the buggy driver needs to **pay extra special attention** to the directions. From the buggy park proceeding **very carefully** down the hill towards the path at the left of the ladies 12th tee follow this down to cross by the end of the beck and onto the fairway. Keep to the LHS of the fairway **being aware of the possibility of balls being struck from the 17th** tee to your right, the route is directly towards the green parking eventually on the left side at the foot of the path network leading to the 13th tee.

13th Hole.

It would be impossible and too dangerous to take the buggy up the hill all the way to the tees, **the buggy must be left at the bottom of the hill and must on no account be taken up to the tees.** On completion of the tee shot the player must then proceed along the buggy path to the fairway passing to the left of the marker post and park at the left side of the 14th tee. The player then should walk down to the 13th green to putt out so avoiding the possibility of damage to the fringe area of the green.



14th Hole.

Parking at the side of the tee allows a gradual walk onto the 14th tee. After the tee shot proceed down the path and along the centre of the fairway and to the left of the green along the buggy path, parking on the level area of path to the LHS of the green. **Extreme care should be taken when going down the path to the 15th tee.**

15th Hole.

From the 14th green moving left down the path to the 15th tees. After the tee shot proceed down the path onto the fairway and cross the bridge over the beck. Once over the bridge follow the LHS of the fairway and go behind the green to the 16th tee and park near the shelter at the back corner of the tee.

16th Hole.

After the 16th tee shot the driver crosses over the bridge carefully keeping to the left of the winter green and onto the fairway. Proceeding down the centre of the fairway but keeping to the right of the marker post then bearing left to avoid the sharp drop before the green. (See signs) At the base of the slope turn right past the green to park near the bell.

17th Hole.

From the park area it will be necessary to walk up to the 17th tee. On completion of the tee shot the buggy has to once again be driven over the beck. Bearing right past the ladies tee the driver proceeds carefully up the LHS over the rocky area of the semi and onto the main fairway, park to the RHS of the green. On completion of the 17th hole move the buggy to the start of the 18th path as indicated. No buggies are permitted beyond this point.

18th Hole.

Following the tee shot the buggy route follows the fairway up the slope to the green. Park on the level area to the front LHS of the green

Please return your clubs to your car by accessing the car park via the path between the Golf Shop and the Clubhouse and return the buggy to the Golf Shop by the same route, being aware of other players at all times.

email: office@windermeregc.co.uk website: www.windermeregolfclub.co.uk

Buggy Number

Appendix 4 Club Owned Ride-on Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form

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

Any person who accepts the privilege of operating a ride-on buggy on the **Windermere 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.

By signing below, I acknowledge that

- I have read, understand and accept The Windermere Golf Club Policy for the use of Ride-on Buggies on the Golf Course.
- I have read, understand and accept The Windermere Golf Club Ride-on Golf Buggy Conditions of Use.
- I have read, understand and accept The Windermere Golf Club Ride-on Buggy Safe Operating Practices.
- I have read, understand and accept The Windermere Golf Club Ride-on Buggy Route Guidance.
- I am competent to drive a golf buggy.
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions related to this Policy and have received answers which clarified and fully answered any questions which I raised.
- 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 Windermere Golf Club Buggy Safety Policy and the manufacturers recommendations contained in the handbook.
- I agree to indemnify The Windermere Golf Club against all claims, costs and demands made against them and any third party arising out of or in connection with the use of the ride-on buggy.

Name of user:
Address:
Post Code:
Contact Number:
Email:
Please tick: I consent to Windermere Golf Club sending me information and marketing news via email.
Signature of UserDateDate
Signature of ManagerDateDate

Users of golf buggies do so at their own risk. Windermere Golf Club will not accept any liability for any loss or damage to the golf buggy or any other property arising from negligence of the Club or any of its servants or agents.



Appendix 5 Privately Owned Ride-on Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form

All golfers must complete both sections of this form prior to operating a privately owned golf buggy

Any person who accepts the privilege of operating a ride-on buggy on the Windermere 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.

By signing below, I acknowledge that

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- I have read, understand and accept The Windermere Golf Club Ride-on Golf Buggy Conditions of Use.
- I have read, understand and accept The Windermere Golf Club Ride-on Buggy Safe Operating Practices.
- I have read, understand and accept The Windermere Golf Club Ride-on Buggy Route Guidance.
- I am competent to drive a golf buggy.
- I understand and accept that my privately-owned ride on golf buggy is for the sole use of myself as the owner only and under no circumstance is it to be lent or hired out to third parties.
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions related to this Policy and have received answers which clarified and fully answered any questions which I raised.
- I am aware of the areas where I am unable to take a ride-on buggy.
- I have logged (and will update annually) a copy of certification from my registered medical practitioner or Physician that I am unable to play golf unless aided by the use of a ride on golf buggy.
- I have logged with the Club Manager a copy of my valid insurance policy to cover public liability and risks to third parties (min. £1,000,000).
- I will ensure that my ride-on buggy is maintained and operated in accordance with the Windermere Golf Club Ride-on Buggy Conditions of Use (Appendix 1)
- I agree to indemnify The Windermere Golf Club against all claims, costs and demands made against them and any third party arising out of or in connection with the use of the ride-on buggy.

Name of user:	Medical Certification Public/3rd party Insurance policy	
Address:		
	Post Code:	
Contact Number: Emai	:	
Please tick: I consent to Windermere Golf Club sending me information and marketing news via email.		
Signature of UserDat	e	
Signature of ManagerDateDate		

Users of privately owned golf buggies do so at their own risk. Windermere Golf Club will not accept any liability for any loss or damage to the golf buggy or any other property arising from negligence of the Club or any of its servants or agents.



Appendix 6 Application and terms for storage space for privately owned ride on buggies.

Windermere Golf Club provides the facility to keep, or store privately owned ride on buggies on the Golf Club premises in the designated area next to the greenkeepers' sheds. An annual charge of £100.00 per buggy will be due on 1st March each year for all privately owned buggies that are kept/stored on the Clubs premises.

By signing below, I acknowledge that:

- I have read, understand and accept The Windermere Golf Club Policy for the use of Ride-on Buggies on the Golf Course.
- I understand and accept that my privately owned ride on golf buggy is for the sole use of myself as the owner only and under no circumstance is it to be lent or hired out to third parties.
- I will provide (and will continue to provide annually) a copy of my valid insurance policy to cover liability for risks to third parties (min. £1,000,000).
- I will provide (and continue to provide annually) a copy of certification from my registered medical practitioner or Physician that I am unable to play golf unless aided by the use of a ride on golf buggy.
- I will deposit a spare ignition key, a key to any security chain or wire plus details of any immobilisation device with the Club Manager.
- I have completed a Windermere Golf Club privately-owned ride-on golf buggy acknowledgement and acceptance form (Appendix 5).
- Privately owned ride-on buggies are kept/stored entirely at the owners own risk and Windermere Golf Club cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to the privately owned buggies.
- Owners of privately owned buggies use their privately owned buggies entirely at their own risk.
- Windermere Golf Club will not accept liability for any loss or damage to the privately owned buggies or any other property arising from the negligence of the Club or any of its servants or agents.
- I agree to indemnify Windermere Golf Club against all claims, costs and demands made against them and any third party arising out of or in connection with the use of the privately owned ride-on buggy.
- I cannot store my privately owned buggy on the premises of Windermere Golf club until I have written confirmation from the Club Manager.

Name of Applicant:	Contact Number:
	Post Code:
Email:	
Signature of UserDate	
Medical Certification Public / 3 rd party Insurance pol	icy Ignition & Security keys
Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form (appendix 5) rec	ceived Storage Fee
Approved by: Position:	Date