



## **Inclement Weather Safety Protocols**

In practice we already have protocols in place for inclement weather events that may affect players safety on the golf course under the course policy document. This document re-affirms the procedures in place for all types of weather.

### **Lightning**

In the event of lightning in the area a warning klaxon must be sounded to suspend play and warn players of the safety issue. This is primarily the responsibility of the General Manager or Course Manager, or in his absence, one of his deputies.

If neither the General Manager or Course Manager is available or off duty, it is the responsibility of the Course Ranger with consultation with the Head Professional.

Should this happen in a competition, players must mark their balls and discontinue play straight away. If possible, players should make their way back to the clubhouse. Play must not resume until the threat of lightning passes and the klaxon sounds again.

If players cannot make their way back to the clubhouse, then they should keep a distance from their golf equipment and where possible, stay away from trees.

As per the Course Policy, if play can be resumed within the hour players will be asked to go back onto the course and continue, if an hour lapses without a resumption of play, the competition will be abandoned.

In the event players are on the course outside of the hours that a Club official/employee is not on duty and there is a risk of lightning, they should immediately stop play and leave the course for their own safety. To continue to play when lightning is threatened is at the player's own risk.

### **Fog**

Golf can only be played safely if players can see far enough into the distance to be sure that the players in front (or other users of the common) aren't at risk of being hit by golf balls.

A rule of thumb for gauging safety is if Fort Henry can be seen from the clubhouse. However, it should be noted that fog can often be localised, especially the Gorey end, and even if the Fort can be seen safely from the clubhouse, holes further out on the course could be affected with thicker fog and unsafe playing conditions.

It is the responsibility of the Course Manager and his greenkeeping staff to assess the safety risk when fog is prevalent. If conditions aren't deemed to be safe the course should be closed with immediate effect and not re-opened until conditions are safe.

Should fog come in after the greenkeeping team has finished for the day this responsibility will pass over to the on-duty Course Ranger or if within office hours, the General Manager.

If conditions are deemed to be unsafe when golfers are already on the course, the klaxon should be sounded to inform members of the situation. Play should be discontinued immediately, and balls marked, if safe to do so, players should make their way to the clubhouse. Play must not resume until the conditions are safe and the klaxon sounds again.

If this occurs during a competition the same policy applies.

### **High Winds**

As a links course we are bereft of trees which would make high winds dangerous. The only issue is if the winds are so strong that balls begin to move on the greens. Whilst this is not an issue in normal play, if a competition is running the competition should be abandoned. Casual/friendly play may continue.

The responsibility for this decision will initially lie with the Course Manager or his team, or in their absence, the General Manager or Course Ranger.

**Darren Attwood**  
**General Manager**