

PROCEDURES FOR THE RE-OPENING OF EASTER MOFFAT GOLF COURSE

COVID-19 PANDEMIC EMGC TEMPORARY MEASURES

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic we are introducing temporary measures to safeguard the health and wellbeing of all members and staff.

Following guidance from the UK and Scottish Governments, as well as Scottish Golf's governing bodies, we will only be allowed to open the course by adhering to the below set of measures.

As well as these Easter Moffat GC measures, you must adhere to the guidance issued by the UK and Scottish Governments.

We are required to make use of the booking system to ensure social distancing is maintained as best as possible. There are further measures that must be in place before, during and after play which are listed below along with requirements and instructions regarding the use of the booking system.

NOTE: ALL COMPETITIONS ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE – THIS WILL BE REVIEWED IN THE COMING WEEKS

First and foremost, the club has a duty of care to all staff and members in the coming weeks and months ahead. It should be worth noting that it is a 'Safety First and Golf Second' policy. This will hopefully minimise/manage as best we can, any risk and allow our golfers to play with as little fear as possible.

The procedures below should allow golfers to arrive at the club, play social/fun golf and then leave the golf club. It also allows staff to follow a simple set of procedures that are possible to manage operationally, with minimal staffing levels.

As you will see in the Scottish Golf Guidance all Clubhouse areas have to be closed. We have arranged for the clubhouse to be open from Friday 29th May until Sunday 31st May for members to retrieve their clubs from the locker room (if they weren't collected previously) as we do not expect to have access to the clubhouse for some time. If your trolley is in the trolley store outside the same dates will apply. During these dates the clubhouse will be available from 07.00am – 5.00pm. We also have arranged access on Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th from 6.00pm – 8.00pm. Note, strict social distancing will be in place, wash or sanitise your hands before entering the clubhouse and only two members at any time should be in any locker room or trolley store, 2 metres apart.

Please also be aware that after your clubs and/or trolley have been removed you will be unable to return them until restrictions are eased.

BRS TEE TIME BOOKING SYSTEM

You will need to use the booking system in order to make a booking online.

As per the guidelines it is mandatory for player to book before play as Golf Clubs must maintain an accurate record for 6 weeks of all golfers using the facility. This may be used to assist in contact tracing.

DO NOT TURN UP AND PLAY WITHOUT BOOKING A TIME – THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.

For members that are unable to use the online booking portals please call the Pro-shop on 01236 843015 to book a time. Members or family members that currently do not have the booking systems portals, these can be accessed at the club website www.emgc.org.uk or by downloading the BRS golf or Club V1 apps for smartphones. This is a very easy process, you will require your email address and membership number to register.

NO TEE TIME BOOKING WILL RESULT IN NO PLAY

To allow the greens staff time to prepare the course there is STRICTLY NO PLAY BEFORE 0800 hours midweek and 07.00m at weekends. Do not enter the course before your booked time.

Booking slots will be available from the above times until 20.00 with 8 minute intervals (this will be reviewed on a continuous basis).

Please do not just turn up to play without prior booking, you will not be allowed on to the course.

At the moment you may only book a maximum of **4 tee times a week, 3 days in advance** (bookings for Friday 29th May onwards, can be booked 3 days in advance as normal, naming the member, if any, you intend to play with. Example for booking on Friday the BRS system can take bookings from just after midnight on Monday night. This will be reviewed frequently and relaxed as and when we can realistically do so. Please ensure all players names are entered at time of booking. **THE COMMITTEE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REMOVE THE NAMES OF ANY MEMBER ABUSING THESE RULES.**

BRS BOOKING SYSTEM WILL GO LIVE AT MIDNIGHT ON MONDAY, MAY 25TH

At this time the course will be open to members only as no visitors will be allowed to play.

The guidance from Scottish Golf indicates up to 4 people per time can play but from no more than 2 households. Example a father and son from same household can play with another father and son from same household can play together. This will be strictly monitored and any member abusing this will be reported to the general committee and could potentially ruin it for the rest of our membership. Having reviewed our membership details this will mean that the vast majority of our games will be 2 balls and therefore fast moving.

It is required that you give as much notice as possible, preferably 24 hours, to cancel a booking which for the most part can be done online. This will allow others to book the tee time, therefore, please cancel online as soon as you are aware you will not be able to make it.

Please note that if you do not cancel or fail to turn up, penalties may be imposed.

As a matter of courtesy where possible we would ask you to avoid booking peak times and weekends if you have no time restrictions on your playing availability. This will allow those with restricted availability to have a better chance of booking peak times. This suggestion is to try and ensure every member gets the opportunity to play.

Note: Due to unprecedented demand, when golf clubs opened in England, the booking systems collapsed. The Software Vendors have since been working diligently to ensure this doesn't happen in Scotland.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Please maintain 2 metres apart at all times from arriving in the car park, in the Pro shop, on the course and surrounding areas.

ARRIVING TO PLAY

NOTE THE PRACTICE AREA & PUTTING GREEN ARE CLOSED – WILL BE REVIEWED IN THE COMING WEEKS

- Please do not arrive in the car park more than 15 minutes before tee time and arrive ready to play.
- You must report to the Pro shop prior to play, stating who the players are and make your way to the first tee when you hear the bell.
- Under NO circumstances should there be more than one group on or near the first tee, if for whatever reason this does happen, please wait at the top of the path until clear, ensuring our social distancing rules are kept.

PROFESSIONAL SHOP

There will be guidance regarding the professional shop next week when Graham receives information from the PGA and Scottish Golf. As soon as there is clarity, an email will be sent to the members with the relevant information. All members should check in with Graham King when arriving to play observing social distancing.

ON THE COURSE

- All players will start from the 1st tee
- ON TEEING AREAS golfers should keep 2 metres apart. Individuals should remain 2 metres apart when walking to the ball to play the next shot, when searching for a ball, or playing shots.
- BROKEN TEES Pick up and put in your pocket to be disposed of at home. Don't leave lying around.
- RUBBISH/WASTE please take all rubbish and containers home for disposal.
- COURSE FURNITURE There will be no rakes in the bunkers, smooth sand as best as possible with your foot or club. There will be no ball washers or ball retrievers.
- DO NOT retrieve a playing partners ball at any time.
- DO NOT touch the flag poles. The hole cups have a foam type substance inserted in them which stops the ball dropping any more than one inch below the surface.
- Only handle your own golf ball. Any 'lost' balls on the course should be left where they are.

- If you are caught up by following players STAND aside as soon as practical. DO NOT hold up the course.
- If NOT playing 18 holes UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CUT OVER AT ANY POINT. Only play holes in rotation and walk in from wherever you finish.

AT THE END OF YOUR GAME

- At the end of your game DO NOT shake hands.
- Return to car park and leave as soon as possible. DO NOT hang about.

COURSE CONDITION

It may take a period of time for the course to return to the excellent condition members have come to expect over the years. This is solely due to reduced staffing as a direct result of furloughing.

Only essential maintenance has been taking place, however, the greens staff, who have been working, have done an outstanding job in maintaining the course. We ask for patience in this regard.

EASING OF RESTRICTIONS

Throughout this crisis, it has been acknowledged by both the UK and Scottish Governments that golf in general, has displayed outstanding discipline in terms of following the guidelines and as a sport, we are being looked upon very favourably when compared to others. The governing bodies, R&A, Scottish Golf, PGA, BIGGA and the GCMA have all worked very closely. A huge emphasis is being placed on each individual following the guidelines.

These are difficult and unprecedented times which have forced us into these temporary restrictions which will be in force until we are permitted to lift or relax some or all of them. These initial measures will be under constant review. We ask for your patience and understanding during these difficult times.

For further information please refer to the Scottish Golf Limited website and I have enclosed some useful links on guidelines and Q & A.

<https://scottishgolf.org/guidance-for-golf-clubs-and-golfers-on-returning-to-golf-in-scotland/>

<https://scottishgolf.org/frequently-asked-questions-in-relation-to-the-guidance-for-golf-clubs-and-golfers-on-returning-to-golf-in-scotland/>

We thank our loyal members for supporting the club during extremely challenging times and we look forward to welcoming you back to the club, please abide by these rules as this will facilitate a return to normal all the quicker.

Most importantly enjoy your game, stay safe, stay well.

John Dunlop – Honorary Secretary

24th May 2020