



COVID-19 response: Golf course closures

Clubs, courses and facilities must close

It remains England Golf's position that this deeply regrettable, but highly necessary and responsible course of action had to be taken on 23 March following the Prime Minister's statement to the nation.

Golf courses and facilities must remain closed until further notice.

This decision was not taken lightly. It was made to limit the spread of the coronavirus and relieve the growing pressure on our National Health Service and save lives.

The playing of golf does not constitute one of the government's permissible forms of daily exercise.

There should be no exceptions, no special cases as golf takes its share of the responsibility in looking out for the health and wellbeing of all citizens.

Full Statement

Following on from the Prime Minister's statement tonight (23 March), golf clubs, courses and facilities in England must now close.

It is England Golf's position that this deeply regrettable, but highly necessary and responsible course of action must be implemented with immediate effect and be maintained until further notice.

The government has identified an urgent need to introduce new restrictions on public life and on non-essential businesses opening their doors.

This has been done to limit the spread of the coronavirus and relieve the growing pressure on our National Health Service.

Keeping golf courses open is simply no longer compatible with the updated policy of government which is designed to save lives in a time of national emergency.

The health and wellbeing of the nation is the only consideration that matters at this moment in our history.

These are incredibly testing times for the country. The golf industry cannot be shielded from the economic and social ramifications caused by this temporary shutdown of normal life.

We would like to assure the golfing community that England Golf staff will continue to work remotely with all affiliated golfers, clubs and counties to try and minimise the damage caused by this suspension of regular golf club life.

We will continue to signpost clubs and counties to the latest government advice and schemes designed to help the economy cope with the disruption caused by coronavirus.

Greenkeeping Staff

Following clarification with the Government, greens staff can still attend work for security and essential maintenance purposes.

Any work must be carried out in strict accordance with government guidelines on social distancing. Greens staff should discuss all work options with their employers.