

1.00 Aim:

1.01 The purpose of this document is to establish a standard for the safe operation of all ride-on buggies operated on the golf course at Honiton Golf Club. The document also sets down the criteria to be applied and conditions to be met when the Club considers applications for the use of Ride-on Buggies and Club Cars.

2.00 Scope:

2.01 **Equality Act 2010:** Primarily, the act concerns itself with anyone who has a disability as defined by this legislation. Under the Act, Golf Clubs have a legal duty to produce a policy that allows equal access to the Club to those players who have a recognised disability as defined by Section 6 of the Act. The Club has to ensure that all reasonable adjustments, which may include the use of a golf buggy, are made to allow those with a disability to play golf.

2.02 Honiton Golf Club Ltd has also decided that it would also be beneficial to develop a policy that encompasses all members and visitors who, while not fulfilling the legislative definitions of being disabled, need the help provided by a motorised ride-on buggy to play golf. Permission can be obtained by completing a Self-Medicating Certificate and applying to the Club Manager.

3.00 Definitions used in this policy:

3.01 **“Ride-on Buggy”:** These are privately owned, battery powered, single seat buggies which are maintained by the owner. Any person who operates a ride-on buggy on the golf course is deemed by so doing to have the knowledge, training and skill to safely operate this vehicle and be fully accountable for their actions and the consequences thereof. Members and visitors must sign **“Ride on Buggy” Agreement HGC.10.C02** when applying to use a buggy. Members have the option of storing their buggy at the club for an annual fee (subject to availability).

3.02 **“Club Car”:** The professional Shop manages and maintains Club Cars available for hire by visitors and members for a fee paid to the Professional Shop.

3.03 **“Disability”** shall have the same meaning as the Equality Act 2010. A person has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

3.04 **“Restriction of the Golf Buggy” :** From time to time the Club staff may determine that the state of the course or the weather is such that safety on or the condition of the course may be unacceptably compromised if a ride-on buggy is used. This might apply to the whole or part of the course. Potentially unsuitable conditions include water logging, frost, etc. Where such conditions arise the Club will review the situation on at least a daily basis. The Club also 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 ‘Club Car’ type buggies while single seat buggies are permitted on the golf course.

3.05 **“Self-Medicating Certificate” HGC.10.C03** shall mean a valid medical certificate from the person applying to use buggy stating the reason why they require a ride on buggy. This may be for a stated period or reviewed annually. This certificate is only valid for Honiton Golf Club Ltd.

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3.06 “**Valid medical confirmation of disability**” shall mean a valid medical certificate from a registered general practitioner or consultant registered with the Health Professions Council that the player or caddie is suffering from a disability.

4.00 Health & Safety on the course:

4.01 Any person who operates a ride-on buggy on the golf course is deemed by so doing to have the knowledge, training and skill to safely operate this vehicle and be fully accountable for their actions and the consequences thereof.

4.02 The safe operation of ride-on buggies on the course requires conscientious application and utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of others.

4.03 Where a player is under the age of 18 years and has met the criteria in paragraph 5.0 below. The Golf Manager shall reserve the right to specify that the golf buggy is driven by another person deemed suitable, in the event that a person having parental responsibility for the player is unable or not competent or qualified to do so.

4.04 Members and visitors must sign “**Ride on Buggy**” **Agreement HGC.10.C02** when applying to use a buggy.

4.05 It is the responsibility of the owner of the ride on buggy to keep it in a mechanically sound state of repair.

4.06 If in the event that the Club Manager or an officer of Honiton Golf Club believes that for reasons of health and safety a golf buggy should not be used by players, caddies or third parties at a particular time he/they may:

- a) Refuse to grant permission for the use of a golf buggy, and shall inform the player, caddie or third party of this decision; or
- b) Revoke any such permission in the event of new health and safety considerations having come to light since the granting of the initial permission to use a Ride-on Buggy or Club Car.

5.00 Persons who may use a Ride-on Buggy or Club Car:

5.01 It shall be a condition of any competition organized by Honiton Golf Club Ltd, that players must walk at all times, unless permission is sought and granted from either the Club Captain, Section Captain or Club Manager. Prior to play, newly permitted users of a Ride-on Buggy or Club Car must first complete and agree to the terms by way of a “**Valid Medical Confirmation of Disability**” form or by completing a “**Self-Medicating Certificate**”.

5.02 Any member or visitor playing in a competition which is being held at Honiton Golf Club but is being organized by either County, England Golf, National or other organization, must comply with any Transportation Policy as set out in that organization’s Competition Rules and/or Condition of Play.

6.00 Permission Refusal for use of buggy:

6.01 In cases where a member has been refused permission to use a ride on buggy they may appeal following the Disciplinary Procedure.

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