



A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO GOLF DURING COVID-19

Golf is our passion and we love it. We believe allowing golfers to enjoy a game in a safe environment provides the mental and physical health benefits to improve the wellbeing of all our members.

This practical guide, prepared by our Committee and Greens staff, based on the paper published by the PGA “Opening Plan for Golf Guidance”, outlines the robust, monitored measures Airdrie Golf Club will be implementing to safeguard our members and staff during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

For golfers, the measures cover each step of the journey from home to the 1st Tee and home again. At the golf course, these measures are in place from dawn to dusk, seven days per week.

Our Measures and Procedures will be under constant review, updated as advice from Government, Health Authorities and Governing Bodies evolves in line with the gradual lifting of social restrictions.

The club has adapted its procedures to ensure compliance with government restrictions. The following aspects of the golfer experience has been divided into the following categories:

Course Access

Course Setup

Before the Round

Check-in and Pro Shop

Clubhouse Facilities

To the First Tee

On the Course

Getting Home Safely

Ensuring the Safety of our Staff



1. Course Access

In the initial period following the club's reopening, access to the course will be limited to our staff and club members only. Members who have not paid their fees will not be able to book any tee times. In the short term Non-members and members' guests will not be allowed access to the course in line with the government restrictions.

Tee Times will be available from 8.00am – 7.00pm midweek and 7.30am – 7.00pm at weekends and play must only start from the 1st Tee. This is to ensure Green Staff can prepare the course with a limited team and to control the movement of Golfers on the course.

To access the course, a player must:

- Be an active member & play within specified booking times only.
- not otherwise be required to be self-isolating.
- Not be displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- Have a pre-reserved tee time.
- These playing conditions are non-negotiable.

2. Course Set Up

For up to date guidance on essential maintenance, please refer to the most current version of the “Essential Maintenance Statement for Golf Courses during COVID-19 Outbreak”.

On-Course Items

- All bunker rakes have been removed, players to smooth sand after their shot with their feet or their club.
- All ball washers and bins have been removed.
- Benches will be marked in such a way to indicate golfers should not use them.
- All other removable items have been removed, except the stakes defining areas of the course that can be treated as immovable obstructions.

Hole and Flagstick

- Flag sticks will remain in the hole and must not be touched.
- Hole cups have been adapted so that the ball does not fall below the surface of the putting green and can be easily retrieved by handling the ball only.

Practice Areas

- Putting Green including practice nets are closed.
- Practice area is closed.



3. Before the Round

It is anticipated that there will be a rush to book tee times especially on a Saturday. Therefore, members are asked to utilise either Saturday or Sunday, but not both. Alternatively members could play during the week where there will be less demand.

Bookings

- All existing BRS bookings have been cancelled. Bookings can only be made 3 days in advance. This may revert to 7 days as restrictions ease.
- Social golf only. There will be no competitive golf.
- Booking a tee time via BRS website in advance is compulsory.
- Those members including Juniors, who cannot access the system can contact Pro Shop between 9.00am and 4.00pm on 01236 754360 to book a tee time.
- The maximum number of golfers in a group per tee time is 2 in accordance with government requirements.
- There is to be a minimum of 10 minute intervals between tee times.
- The BRS system has been updated to restrict tee time to two members only and at 10 min intervals.
- Arrival at the course no more than 15 minutes prior to reserve tee time.
- Golfers should travel to the club alone, or with a member of the same household.
- The committee will monitor bookings to ensure that all members get fair access to the course.

Arrival and Waiting to Play

- Ample car parking spaces are available and tee time restrictions will help ensure social distancing.
- Observe social distancing always and resist the temptation to mingle.
- Only two electric trolleys will be available for hire at this time.
- There will be no club Golf buggies for hire at this stage.
- Personal golf buggies are allowed for single use only. Social distancing measures must be adhered to.
- Locker rooms and toilets are open with social distancing to be strictly adhered to. This is subject to Government guidelines.
- If the locker rooms are to close, arrangements will be made for members to collect their golf equipment at the earliest opportunity.



4. Check-in and Pro Shop

Check-In

- Mandatory check-in at the Pro Shop for all golfers

Pro Shop

- Only move to area of Pro Shop once group in front are on the 1st Tee.
- Two-metre queue markers at a single Pro Shop entry point.
- One person only at a time permitted inside the Pro Shop.
- A two-metre exclusion zone at the service desk.
- Essential golfing items will be available to purchase.
- Soft drinks etc. will be available to purchase.
- Card payment or account sales only, no cash accepted at the till.
- Golfers should minimise their time in Pro Shop.

Clubhouse Facilities

All clubhouse facilities, other than locker rooms and toilets, will remain closed until further notice. This is in line with Government Guidance and will be reviewed as further updates are released.

When the Clubhouse does reopen, there will be extra measures in place, for member and staff protection, it is vital that these measures are followed. Social distancing measures will still be in place.



5. To the First Tee

- Only move to the 1st Tee once the group in front are clear of the tee.
- Arrive on the 1st tee no more than 5 minutes prior to the reserved tee time.
- Social spacing signage identifies guidelines.
- Any member(s) not following directions will be asked to leave the course and be reported to committee.
- Members must strictly adhere to tee off times to ensure minimum 10 minute group spacing.



6. On the Course

- Teeing Areas
 - Golfers must keep 2 metres apart at teeing areas.
- General
 - Golfers to stay more than 2 metres apart when walking to the ball, searching for a ball and playing shots.
 - Once a hole is completed, the group in front must have exited the tee box before players can progress to the next hole.
 - Do not double back to play again if a ball is lost, unplayable, or in a penalty area.
 - Equipment, food and drink must not be exchanged between players.
 - Players must not pick up another player's equipment or golf ball.
 - Players must refrain from handshakes and high fives.
- Remind golfers not to touch stray balls.
- Bunkers
 - With no rakes allowed on the course, remind golfers to make their very best efforts to smooth the sand using their club/feet or personal rake.
- Putting
 - Members should not touch another player's golf ball.
 - Members should putt out and not mark their balls.



7. Getting Home Safely

- Social distancing is as important after a round as it is during the round, so when the round is over members must leave the course and return straight to their cars or if walking, change their shoes and leave the course.
- Clubhouse will remain closed
- **Players must call or email the Golf Club with any post-round health issues or COVID-19 related queries, at the earliest possible opportunity**

ENSURING THE SAFETY OF OUR STAFF

Pro Shop Team

The front of house Pro Shop team will initially manage all customer-facing aspects of the Golf Club. Our measures are to ensure their safety, along with club members.

- There will be one staff member present in the Pro Shop at any one time.
- Staff provided with PPE to wear on-site.
- Staff are aware of importance to hand hygiene and cough etiquette.
- Hand sanitiser and cleaning solutions provided for use.
- Staff to always remain at least two metres from customers.
- Service desk protection screens have been installed.
- All work areas and contact points are cleaned and sanitised regularly.

Green Staff Team

Our Green Staff are isolated on the course for much of the time, with steps taken to minimise the risk of cross-contamination during their shift.

- Staggered start and break times to avoid social gathering
- Morning briefings postponed, communication via digital methods or from a social distance
- Hand sanitisers provided for regular use
- PPE has been made available for all green staff.
- Method of working have change to following recommended guidelines staff
- Anti-bacterial wipes and face masks are available.
- Plant and machinery limited to single person use on a daily basis.
- Plant and Machinery fully washed after use, including disinfecting of controls.
- For further information please refer to the following documents on the club website:
 - Lone Working Policy May 2020.
 - Risk Assessment for lone working May 2020
 - Guidance and Procedure to be Adopted by Greenkeeping Staff during COVID 19 Pandemic March - April 2020

If you would like to speak with either the Club Secretary or a member of committee, please make contact in the first instance via email at Airdriegolfclub@gmail.com