

## **LIGHTNING POLICY**

1. Shifnal Golf Club ('the Club') considers the safety of its Members and Guests a priority during bad weather conditions accompanied by lightning.
2. A decision to carry on playing during bad weather conditions accompanied by lightning is left to the discretion of the player, who MUST accept full responsibility for his/her safety whilst on the course. However, if the Professional Shop sounds the Klaxon because it is deemed unsafe to be on the course, you MUST leave the course immediately and proceed to the Clubhouse or other place of safety.
3. In bad weather conditions accompanied by lightning or where the Klaxon is sounded the following will apply:-
  - Proceed immediately to the Clubhouse or other place of safety.
  - Do not continue to play golf and do not seek shelter under trees. Trees do not protect you from lightning.
  - During competitions, if there is a lightning risk, play will be suspended and all players must leave the course.
  - When the Klaxon is sounded, a player cannot override the decision taken by the Club to suspend play and evacuate the course.
  - Players should suspend play and seek shelter any time they believe lightning threatens them, even if the Klaxon has not been sounded.
4. Although the Club will take precautions to ensure the safety of players, it is not always possible for the Professional Shop to monitor conditions on the entire course. Therefore, it is a player's own responsibility to discontinue play when a player honestly believes their safety is at risk from lightning. Please note that golf buggies do NOT give protection from lightning.

Players are requested to familiarise themselves with both this policy and the Rules of Golf.

5. Rule 5.7: Stopping Play; Resuming Play. Rule 5.7 as stated in the Rules of Golf will apply to all competitions and matches where there is a risk of lightning.

The Rules of Golf are straightforward when lightning is a risk.

Rule 5.7 makes it quite clear that a player is entitled to stop play if he or she believes there is danger from lightning. Although bad weather in itself is not a good reason for stopping play, bad weather accompanied by lightning, or the very real risk of lightning, most certainly is. Common sense dictates that play in these circumstances must be stopped in the interests of safety. Even if the klaxon is not sounded and the player honestly believes that there is a real risk of danger from lightning, then he or she is entitled to proceed under the provisions of Rule 5.7 and stop play.

6. Resumption of Play – Where play has been suspended due to lightning, play must be resumed where it was stopped, even if resumption occurs on a subsequent day (see Rule 5.7 Rules of Golf).

When the danger has passed, 3 short blasts of the Klaxon will indicate that it is safe to return to the course.

7. The Club accepts no liability for the safety of its members and guests whilst on the course during bad weather accompanied by lightning and all members and guests are requested to adhere to this policy at all times.

Match Committee  
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