

# Golfing Safely

## **The following document is to provide some advice of the risks associated with playing golf at Sitwell Park Golf Club.**

Golfers should note that everyone has a responsibility for their own, and others safety. As a player you have a responsibility to report any dangerous occurrences or accidents you are made aware of so that that they are recorded and may be included in the ongoing risk assessment process.

Members and visitors alike, should make the Club Professional, a member of the club management/committee, or at very least, their playing partners, aware of any medical conditions which may affect their abilities in this sport.

A golf course, by its nature, is usually played on an uneven surface, largely made of grass, that can become slippery, especially when wet. It is therefore a requirement of Sitwell Park Golf Club that all players shall wear golf shoes whilst playing golf, players are also advised that moulded sole golf shoes are not always appropriate footwear for winter use on the course. Extra care must be taken when transiting either inclining steep slopes. To avoid slips and falls, players are advised to negotiate inclines at an area of minimal gradient, especially when entering bunkers, ditches or hollows. Players should also be aware that pathways surfaced with astro turf can become slippery in wet conditions and should be used with care.

Before starting your round, and during, ensure that other players are standing either to the side of you, but ideally behind you before you make a stroke or a practice swing. It is also your responsibility to shout "Fore" if there is a risk of someone being hit by your golf ball to allow them time to take appropriate action to avoid being hit. This is particularly important when a ball is hit into an area obscured from the striker and should be carried out as a precautionary exercise.

Prior to playing golfers are advised to "warm-up", the practise nets are situated to the east of the clubhouse.

First aid boxes are available at the clubhouse in the following locations:

1. Club Secretary's office.
2. Professional's shop.
3. Greenkeepers workshop.

Defibrillators – Entrance foyer.

(during club opening hours only).

Players are also advised to carry a mobile phone, in case of emergency (switched to silent or off).

Pathways are provided to prevent excessive wear along high usage areas, please use them, but once again take extra care on steeper sloping pathways, located on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> holes, especially when wet.

If you are using a golf buggy or trolley, do **not** take them into the rough, wooded areas, bunkers, tees on or close to the greens, please respect the approaches to greens, identified by white lines. Use the pathways where they are provided and follow the directional signage that is on the course. Buggies are prohibited from the path to the right of the 5<sup>th</sup> fairway.

Please take care when crossing some of the narrow bridges, especially on the 8<sup>th</sup> fairway. (If you are using a "hired club buggy" a Golf Buggy Safety Policy available and a Safe Use Guide is attached to the windscreen, please take time to read these.)

When entering any of the wooded areas on foot, watch your footing, trips and falls are commonplace in these areas, and beware of twigs & low branches.

Should your ball go into a bunker during your round, always enter at the lowest point, rake the bunker after your shot and leave the sand as you would like to find it, the rake should be left in a safe position, **not** with the tines pointing upwards.

Bells located on a number of holes with restricted visibility, firstly on the right-hand side of the 2<sup>nd</sup> fairway, the right-hand side of the 15<sup>th</sup> fairway and to the left of the 16<sup>th</sup> green (ring the bell to inform the group behind that the green is now clear). Failure to use the bells is a contributory factor in slow play and thoughtless.

After your round, players are encouraged to use the shoe cleaning facilities; this reduces the risk of slipping on hard surfaces when returning to the car park and reduces the unsightly and unhealthy trail of debris into the changing rooms.

Players choosing to use the air compressor should observe the following: -

1. The trigger should only be pulled when the nozzle is pointing at the target to be cleaned.
2. Never point it towards you or anyone else's skin or face.
3. When finished hang the gun and glasses back onto their respective hooks.

## **GOLF BUGGY SAFETY POLICY**

The Club has a duty of care to all users of the golf course. The topography of certain areas of the course is such that caution and prudence must be shown by the user of a ride-on buggy. It is also necessary for the Club to provide adequately safe means of access for all golfers including those given permission to use buggies. Moreover, the Club has to ensure the safety of golfers who do not wish to use ride-on buggies but who might be at risk from a mechanically defective ride-on buggy or its careless use. This duty of care also applies to members of the public using the various rights of way.

To assist the safe employment of ride-on buggies all potential users (Members, visitors and guests) shall comply with the following conditions:

1. Ride-on buggies on Club property are only for the use of Members and visitors and may only be driven by persons over the age of 16.
2. Ride-on buggies must be operated with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of pedestrians. Pedestrians must be afforded the right-of-way at all times.
3. The signs and instructions employed on the course to warn buggy riders of potential danger areas or, areas forbidden to ride-on buggies because of concerns about danger or, the potential to cause unacceptable wear and tear to the course, must be followed at all times.
4. Ride-on buggies must be operated and parked in such a manner that they do not impede or interfere with normal pedestrian or vehicular flow on roadways, ramps or pavements.
5. Ride-on buggy operators will be responsible for the security of ignition keys for the period that the buggy is on the property owned by the Club.
6. Sitwell Park Golf Club has no responsibility for ensuring the safe operation of ride-on buggies on or beyond the confines of the course and the club car-parks other than those operated by their servants or agents. The Club will accept no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to any property other than that arising from the negligent use of a ride-on buggy by their servants or agents.
7. No ride-on buggy will be operated at a speed considered excessive.
8. Ride-on buggies shall be used only when the courses are open for play and when no essential buggy prohibition is in force.
9. Should such a prohibition be in force then the use of a buggy may be allowed with the support of a medical certificate at the discretion of the Course Manager or Club Professional.
10. Ride-on buggies must be operated in compliance with the common` rules of the road` regardless of whether ride-on buggies are operated on pavements or roadways.
11. Operators must stop the buggy at blind intersections and proceed with caution.
12. The Course Manager and Club Professional have the authority to immediately prohibit any individual from using or being carried on a ride-on buggy. Application for reinstatement of permission can only be made to the Club.

## **SAFE USE GUIDE**

Ride-on buggy operators must not be under the influence of alcoholic drinks or drugs.

Persons under the age of 16 are not allowed to drive the ride-on buggy.

### **Before use:**

All operators of ride-on buggies must sign a Safety Policy Acknowledgement form before they are allowed to drive the buggy.

A ride-on buggy shall only be used for the number of occupants it was designed to carry and only by people who are authorised to use one. In particular, standing on the back of a buggy is expressly forbidden.

### **PROBLEMS ON THE COURSE**

- Snow
- Ice
- Frost
- Surface water
- Waterlogging
- Heavy rain
- Uneven ground
- Tournament or Competition preparation
- New construction
- New construction recovery areas
- Any other condition designated by the General Manager / Course Marshal

### **During use:**

- Do not move off until the occupants are seated
- Always remain seated and hold on while the vehicle is in motion
- Hands, feet and head must be kept inside the buggy at all times while the vehicle is in motion
- Check the area behind the vehicle before reversing
- Set the parking brake before leaving the vehicle
- Always consider the terrain, existing vehicular and pedestrian traffic conditions as well as environmental factors that may affect your ability to operate the vehicle safely:

### **After use:**

When the vehicle is left unattended, turn the operating key to the off position, remove the key and engage the parking brake.

## **CHECKLIST FOR USERS OF RIDE-ON BUGGIES**

### **Know the controls and how to use them**

- Ignition switch and immobiliser key
- Accelerator
- Footbrake
- Parking brake – Set the brake before leaving the ride-on buggy
- Reversing Control

### **Know your driving conditions**

1. Ride-on buggies must stay on identifiable tracks and pathways. Use the 90° rule where practicable.
2. The vehicle must not be driven up and down the course when looking for golf balls.
3. The vehicle must not be used on tees, greens, surrounds or slopes leading up to them.
4. The vehicle must not be used within 2 metres of, or on the slopes leading to any bunkers, ponds or ditches (except when crossing designated bridges)
5. Always consider the terrain, existing vehicular and pedestrian traffic conditions, as well as environmental factors that may affect your ability to operate the vehicle safely
6. Drive the vehicle only as fast as the terrain and safety considerations allow
7. To avoid tipping over, drive buggies straight up and down slopes.
8. Slow down before corners.
9. All turns must be executed at reduced speeds.
10. Avoid sudden stops or change of direction that may result in loss of control or damage to the course.

### **Route around the Course**

Buggies must use the pathways to the left of the following:

fairways at holes, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 14, and 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> greens.