

# HEALTH AND SAFETY ON THE COURSE

## INTRODUCTION

This sheet provides an assessment of the risks identified for players and staff at Haverhill Golf Club (HGC) on the golf course. It is a policy of HGC that ALL players are insured for 3<sup>rd</sup> party risk to which end, all members, green fee players and invited guests are automatically insured free of charge by HGC with Golfguard Ltd. (Please see the schedule of Insurance held in the Pro shop).

In the case of an emergency; Call the Pro Shop on 01440 712628 or the Emergency Services on 999 (the postcode is CB9 7UW ) and inform the Pro Shop.

PLAYERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE AWARE AT ALL TIMES OF DANGER TO OTHERS AND TO THEMSELVES; CARE MUST BE TAKEN AT ALL TIMES TO AVOID ACCIDENTS OR INJURIES TO ONESELF AND TO OTHER PLAYERS, OFFICIALS OR STAFF.

FIRST AID BOXES WILL BE FOUND IN THE BAR AREA, OFFICE, PRO SHOP AND GREEN KEEPERS SHED.

**All accidents MUST be reported ASAP to the Club Manager or the Pro Shop for entry into the Accident Book.**

## THE COURSE

The Golf Course Risk Assessment is carried out on a hole-by-hole basis. As a general rule, players should not strike a golf ball when there is the risk of endangering another player, member of the Green Staff or a member of the public.

Blind Tee Shots: 1<sup>st</sup> (Dogleg left), 4<sup>th</sup> (Dogleg left), 11<sup>th</sup> (Beware of 1<sup>st</sup> hole), 14<sup>th</sup> (especially the medal tee), 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Other blind shots are 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> (into the Green), 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Adjacent Fairways: A deviant ball can carry to adjacent fairways/tees and greens on virtually ALL holes, please shout FORE.

Steep Banks/Ditches: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

River: A river comes into play on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> holes. In some cases, the sides of the stream are steep and slippery.

Lakes/ponds: Lakes feature on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> and between the 1<sup>st</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> fairways. The water in the lakes, which may have steep and slippery slopes, is deep and there are silt deposits. Players **MUST NOT** under any circumstances retrieve balls from the lakes. Life belts are located alongside each lake

Bridges (Slip Hazard): Bridge coverings are liable to be slippery when wet, particularly on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Buggies: When leaving from the 5<sup>th</sup> green to go to the 6<sup>th</sup> tee, continue past the concrete steps and over the bridge leading from the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee. Beware of players teeing off from the 3<sup>rd</sup> tees.

Steps: There are concrete steps leading from the 5<sup>th</sup> green to the 6<sup>th</sup> tee, which may be dangerous when wet, or in icy conditions. Beware of all wooden sleepers, especially when wet. Please use the steps where provided.

Public Footpath: There is a Public Footpaths and driveways to the left of the 11<sup>th</sup> hole and right of the 12<sup>th</sup>. Players must ensure that the public have right of way and must not play a shot where members of the public could be in danger. **PLAYERS MUST GIVE WAY TO THE PUBLIC USING THE FOOTPATH/DRIVEWAY.**

Out of Bounds: Players **MUST NOT** retrieve balls from the grounds of any house or private property around the course. Balls **MUST NOT** be retrieved from any out of bounds forming the boundary of the course.

Other potential hazards: Be aware of the road and Golf club entrance/driveway on the left hand side of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> holes. Be aware that adults, children and animals may inadvertently enter onto the course, especially from the left hand side of the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, at the far end of the 13<sup>th</sup> green/14<sup>th</sup> tee and behind the 16<sup>th</sup> green.

Toilets: There are Ladies and Gents toilets situated on the course by the 9<sup>th</sup> tee. For security purposes, these facilities are protected by an entry code that is available from the Pro shop.

The Green Keeper's Compound/Buildings: These are situated on the right hand side of the main entry road. This is a working area and players are not permitted to enter the compound under any circumstances.

Other Health and Safety Considerations:

- Fertiliser and Insecticides etc. on the ground: Do not lick golf balls or fingers. A notice on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tee will advise when spraying is in progress. Players are advised to take heed of the warnings and protect themselves.
- Footwear: Ensure that you are wearing suitable footwear – you have a responsibility to yourself to avoid slipping on slopes and other awkward places.
- Green Keeper Staff: Green Keeping staff have priority at all times. Always make sure that they are aware of your presence before you play your shot. The Green staff are instructed to signal to you when it is safe to play.

## **THE PRACTICE GROUND**

Persons under the age of 13 **MUST NOT** use the practice ground without appropriate adult supervision; this includes crossing to/from the practice area to the golf club/pro shop.

Persons using the practice area are expected to be aware at all times of danger to others and to themselves. Care must be taken at all times to avoid accidents or injuries to themselves or others who may be present on the practice area. Please make sure that the practice area is clear with due allowance for the possibility of an errant shot.

Walking to/from the practice area requires crossing Coupals road at a point of limited visibility of approaching traffic. Extreme caution must be used at all times, especially when pushing a golf cart. Haverhill Golf Club cannot be held responsible for any accident however caused when crossing this road.

## **USE OF BUGGIES**

The use of privately owned single seat ride-on buggies are permitted only by prior application to the Club Manager, and in line with any trolley ban etc. Buggies can be dangerous if driven without due care. Please always drive any buggies with due consideration to your own safety as well as that of other passengers/players.

**All buggies must be operated in accordance with our Golf Buggy Safety Policy (displayed at the pro shop and on each buggy).**

## **SUSPENSION OF PLAY**

Players must protect themselves in Health and Safety matters especially should there be a danger from lightning when play must stop immediately.

Rule 6-8 of the Rules of Golf makes it quite clear that a player is entitled to discontinue play if the player believes that there is a danger from lightning.

All players must adhere to the following Suspension of Play procedure.

A suspension of play for a dangerous situation (e.g. lightning) will be signalled by a prolonged single blast on the klaxon operated from the Pro-shop. However, even if the klaxon is not sounded and the players believe that there is real risk of, or danger from, lightning then the player is entitled to proceed under the provision of Rule 6-8 and discontinue play.

During casual play, players have to proceed under Rule 6-8. This makes it the player's own responsibility to discontinue play when, in his/her opinion, a danger from lightning exists. It is unreasonable for the Club to monitor the course 24/7.

If the klaxon has been sounded, then a player is not entitled to override that decision and continue play. When the klaxon has been sounded for play to be suspended, players must discontinue play immediately.

Every effort will be made to ensure the warning is sounded with sufficient time to allow for all competitors, caddies and spectators to evacuate the course prior to an electric storm striking the course.

Upon the signal being given, all players, caddies and spectators must comply with these conditions.

## **RESUMPTION OF PLAY**

TWO SHORT BLASTS on the klaxon will notify players when it is safe to resume play. No player shall resume play until the klaxon has sounded.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Darkness, rain, fog and ice: During inclement weather, the fact that the course has not been officially closed does not warrant that it is fit for play. Therefore, members and visitors should themselves determine whether they consider it safe to play.

Players have a duty of care to behave in such a way that others will not be injured by their actions. They also have a duty of care to ensure that they do not injure themselves.