

Links Country Park Golf Club



GOLF BUGGY POLICY

Use of Ride-on Buggies on the Golf Course

Introduction

The following documents will encompass the minimum criteria to be applied, and the conditions that must be met by anyone who wishes to make use of a motorised ride-on buggy at Links Country Park Golf Club. These documents will form the Club's policy for the use of golf buggies in the environs of the Club

Users of buggies on the Course fall into two categories,

1. Users of Club owned buggies
2. Users of privately owned buggies

Privately owned buggy users fall into two categories

1. Buggies used by able bodied golfers where Club rules allow their use
2. Buggies used by those who need vehicular assistance to navigate the Course.

Those requiring vehicular assistance can be

1. Those with a recognised disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010.
2. Those who although not officially recognised as being disabled still require vehicular assistance to assist them to play golf.

Equality Act 2010

Primarily, the act concerns itself with anyone who has a disability as defined by this legislation. Under the Act. Golf Clubs and other premises 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. This policy will fulfil this requirement.

The Club has also decided that it would also be beneficial to any future members as well as to our current membership that we develop a policy that encompasses all members and visitors who while not fulfilling the legislative definitions of being disabled but never the less need the help provided by a motorised ride-on buggy to play golf.

Buggy Use

The safety of everyone is of paramount importance, no-one will be allowed to use a buggy within the Club environs until they can demonstrate that they can use it safely to the Club Management's satisfaction.

The purpose of this document is to establish a standard for the safe operation of all ride-on buggies operated on the Course at Links Country Park 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 privately owned buggies.

A copy of this policy will be published in the Club's rules and where applicable on the Links Country Park Golf Club website for both members and visitors.

Where privately owned buggies are allowed to be used a signed Acknowledgement Form (Appendix 4) will be retained by the Director of Golf and a copy given to the applicant.

Privately Owned Buggies

Use of privately owned ride-on buggies will not be allowed unless authorised by the Club. Where privately owned buggies are not normally allowed to be used, their use will be restricted to members, visitors and guests having a genuine incapacity to play golf unless aided by the use of the buggy (See also `Use in General Play and Competitions` below)

The use of a privately owned motorised ride-on buggy at Links Country Park Golf Club is subject to completing the attached documents and returning these to the Director of Golf/Hotel Management and obtaining their written approval for use of a buggy. The forms and Policy can be obtained from the Director of Golf.

The Club reserves the right to withdraw authorisation if the medical condition or disability necessitating the use of a ride-on buggy ceases, or, the conditions for its use are not fully complied with.

Qualifications:

Any person operating a ride-on buggy on the golf Course must demonstrate to The Club Management that they have the knowledge, training and skill to safely operate the vehicle and be fully accountable for their actions and the consequences thereof.

The safe operation of ride-on buggies on the Course requires conscientious application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by this policy.

Ride-on buggies must be operated in accordance with the requirements of the following documents:

Appendix 1 - Golf Buggy Safety Policy.

Appendix 2 – Essential and Safe Operating Practices.

Appendix 3 - Buggy Route Guidelines.

Golf Buggy Users Acknowledgement and Acceptance Form.

The Club reserves the right to refuse permission to use a buggy if any of the conditions stipulated are not complied with.

From time to time, Club staff may determine that the state of the Course or the weather is such that safety of buggy users is unacceptably compromised or the Course may be damaged if a ride-on buggy is used.

This might apply to the whole or just part of the Course.

Potentially unsuitable conditions include water-logging and frost.

Where such conditions arise the club will review the situation on at least a twice a day basis.

The club will endeavour to ensure that restrictions placed on buggy users will be kept to a minimum

Use in General Play and Competitions

Competitions

The use of buggies during competitions is at the Club's discretion. Exceptions are where players have received permission to use buggies due to a disability.

Ride-on buggies may be used during closed and open competitions by those who have a disability within the meaning of section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 which prevents them from playing golf without the use of a ride-on buggy or have received permission to use a buggy from the Club due to having an incapacity that would prevent them from playing golf without the use of a ride-on buggy. In this case a medical certificate may be required.

No other player may share a vehicle, nor may their equipment be carried, unless that person is also an authorised buggy user or has a temporary incapacity and it has been agreed with the Club that he/she can share.

Social Golf

In social golf, sharing is permitted.

I understand, accept and agree to pages 1 - 3 of the Links Country Park Golf Club Buggy Policy as above, I have had the opportunity to raise questions and such questions have answered to my satisfaction.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

APPENDIX 1

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 walking through the Course.

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

1. Ride-on buggies must be operated with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of other Course users. Pedestrians must be afforded the right-of-way at all times.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Links Country 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.
5. No ride-on buggy will be operated in excess of the manufacturer's recommended speed limit or at most 15km per hour. All speed limits must be observed.
6. Ride-on buggies shall be used only between dawn and dusk.

Cont.....

7. 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.
8. Buggies used on the public highway must be rated as road worthy and be road taxed and insured accordingly. Drivers will also be required to hold a valid driving licence
9. Operators must stop the buggy at blind intersections with paths and roadways and always proceed with caution.
10. The consumption of alcohol and/or the improper use of drugs are not permitted when using the ride-on buggy.
11. Users of buggies must ensure that they are insured at least for third party injury and damage.
12. The Club Management has 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.

I understand, accept and agree to the Links Country Park Golf Club Buggy Safety Policy as previous (pages 4 & 5).

I have had the opportunity to raise questions and such questions have answered to my satisfaction.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

APPENDIX 2

Essential and Safe Operating Practices

BEFORE USE

Problems on the Course

There will be times when conditions are such that use of a buggy is inappropriate on certain areas of the Course and users must ensure that they comply with any buggy restrictions.

Notice of any restrictions on the use of a ride-on buggy will be communicated to users by the club (it is the responsibility of all buggy users to check for any restrictions before they commence their golf).

Notices may also be placed where necessary on the Course.

Know the controls and how to use them

1. Ignition switch and immobiliser key
2. Accelerator
3. Footbrake
4. Parking brake – Always set the brake before leaving the ride-on buggy
5. Reversing Control

BUGGY GUIDELINES

1. All buggies will be maintained in a clean and tidy state and will not leak oil.
2. All operators of ride-on buggies must sign a Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement form before they are allowed to drive the buggy.
3. 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.
4. Ride-on buggy operators will be responsible for the security of any ignition keys for the period that the buggy is used.
5. Links Country Park Golf Club staff may have the need to move any ride-on Buggy left at Links Country Park GC, due to an emergency situation, safety issue or logistical issue. Therefore users of privately owned buggies must deposit a spare ignition key, a key to any security chain or wire plus details of any immobilisation device with the Club. By doing so they have acknowledged that they have tacitly given their permission that staff can move their ride-on buggy if required without recourse to contacting them

DURING USE

Caution - Never allow a child, a person under the minimum school leaving age (MSLA) to drive a ride-on buggy.

Know your driving conditions

1. Never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
2. The vehicle must always travel in the designated buggy paths, 'semi rough or rough.
3. Buggies shall not be driven down the fairways
4. The vehicle must always approach the ball on the fairway at 90 degrees from the semi rough/rough and, where appropriate, return to the semi rough/rough on completion of the shot. In winter conditions the player must/if able, walk from the buggy in the rough, to their ball and back.
5. Use routes that will cause the least damage to the Course and adhere to the Golf Buggy Route (Appendix 3)
6. Do not move off until the occupants are seated.
7. Always remain seated and hold on while the vehicle is in motion.
8. Hands, feet and head must be kept inside the buggy at all times while the vehicle is in motion.
9. Ride-on buggies must not be driven in prohibited areas.
10. The buggy must be used to progress the game and must not be driven up and down excessively, e.g., when looking for golf balls.
11. The vehicle must not be used on tees, fairways, greens or the slopes leading up to them.
12. The vehicle must not be used within 2 metres of any bunkers, ditches or slopes leading to them except when using the designated routes.
13. Check the area behind the vehicle before reversing.
14. Set the parking brake before leaving the buggy. When the buggy is left unattended for any lengthy period, engage the parking brake, turn the operating key to the off position and remove the key.
15. 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.
16. Drive the vehicle only as fast as the terrain and safety considerations allow.
17. To avoid tipping over, understand the buggies limitations and manufacturer's instructions regarding slopes and drive the buggy straight up and down severe slopes.
18. Slow down before corners.

19. All turns must be executed at reduced speeds.
20. Avoid sudden stops or changes of direction that may result in loss of control.
21. Additional care must be taken when the Course is wet, muddy or has frost and ice.

AFTER USE

When the vehicle is to be left unattended, engage the parking brake, turn the operating key to the off position and remove the key and return it to Golf or Hotel Reception.

The vehicle must be immobilised and secured in the designated area at the end of play.

I understand, accept and agree to APPENDIX 2 of the Links Country Park Golf Club Buggy Policy as above, I have had the opportunity to raise questions and such questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

APPENDIX 3

BUGGY ROUTE GUIDELINES

General

1. The topography of certain areas of Links Country Park Golf Club Course is such that caution and prudence must be shown by the user of a ride-on buggy.

Also 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. Buggy users must abide by safety decisions made by the Club's staff regarding buggy use.

2. Prior to play, each approved applicant must ensure that they are completely aware of existing or new potential trouble areas of the Course by reference to the Club Professional his nominee/ Head Greenkeeper/ those designated on the Club noticeboards.
3. Ride-on buggies must be operated with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety of pedestrians. Pedestrians must be afforded the right-of-way at all times.
4. In general we expect everyone who uses a motorised ride-on buggy at Links Country Park GC, to operate it in a common sense fashion, fully respecting the Course and all those around them.
5. Anyone causing unnecessary damage to the buggy or Course environs will have their right to use a buggy withdrawn immediately (see appendix 4)

Whenever Links Country Park Golf Club have in force, as a minimum Course rule, **Preferred Lies**, the following must be adhered to by all ride-on buggy users:

- (1) Travel only in the semi rough or rough.
- (2) When approaching the ball to play a shot other than a tee shot, the ride-on buggy should be stopped and parked in the semi rough or rough and the buggy user should then walk to their ball to actually play the shot. In general we expect all ride-on buggy users to avoid driving it on all fairways, unless absolutely necessary or as directed by Links Country Park Golf Club staff or due to their disability, and then only if the ground is not water logged and it is safe to proceed.
- (3) We realise to some Disabled Golfers it may not always be possible to avoid driving on the fairway, in such cases they **MUST** proceed as follows:

If the ride-on buggy user's disability is such that they are forced to travel on the fairway then please respect the conditions and everyone's safety, do not travel the same path twice thus avoiding excessive damage. Please use your initiative and common sense at all times.

Buggy Route

A Buggy Route will be issued to each user/ A Buggy Route will be posted on the website. The route will be updated and re-issued as and when Course conditions change.

It is the duty of the buggy user to check with either the Club Secretary or Professional that they are in possession of the current up to date buggy route before they take their buggy on the Golf Course.

I understand, accept and agree to page 6 of the Links Country Park Golf Club Buggy Policy as above, I have had the opportunity to raise questions and such questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

GOLF BUGGY USERS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT and ACCEPTANCE FORM

All Buggy Users must complete this form prior to operating a motorised ride-on Golf Buggy

The safe operation of Ride-on buggies requires conscientious application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by this policy

Name of User:

Address:

By signing below I acknowledge and accept that:

1. I have read, understand and accept Links Golf Clubs Buggy Policy
2. I have read, understand and accept Links Golf Clubs Golf Buggy Safety Policy (Appendix 1)
3. I have read, understand and accept Links Golf Clubs Essential and Safe Operating Practices (Appendix 2)
4. I have read, understand and accept the Links Golf Club Buggy Route Guidelines (Appendix 3)
5. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions related to the whole Buggy Policy and have received answers which clarified and fully answered any questions which I raised
6. I am aware of the areas where I am unable to take a ride-on buggy

Private Buggy Users

7. I will ensure that the buggy will be maintained and operated in accordance with the Links Golf Club Golf Buggy Safety Policy
8. I have lodged with the Club Secretary a copy of my valid motorised ride-on buggy insurance policy to cover liability for risks to third parties and while operating a ride-on buggy
9. I agree to indemnify Links Golf Club against all claims costs and demands made against Links Golf Club arising out of or in connection with the use of my golf buggy

Signature of User:

Date

Signature of Hotel/Club Manager:

Date

Members requiring to use Privately owned buggies due to an Incapacity must complete either of the Medical Forms (Appendix 4 or 5)

Any person who accepts the privilege of operating a Ride-on buggy on the Links Country Park Golf Club premises is deemed, by so doing, to have the knowledge, training and skill to safely operate the vehicle and shall be fully accountable for their actions and consequences thereof

I possess and have produced certified evidence that I have a disability within the meaning of section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 which prevents me from playing golf without the use of a ride-on buggy. Appendix 4 may be used to provide this certified evidence

OR

I do not have a disability within the meaning of section 6 of the Equality Act 2010, but have produced a letter from my Doctor which indicates that I have an incapacity that would prevent me from playing golf without the use of a ride-on buggy. Appendix 5 needs to be used in this application situation

Signature of User:

Date

Signature of Club/Hotel Manager:

Date

APPENDIX 4

Medical form to be completed by the applicant's doctor for applicants who have a disability within the meaning of section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or statutory modification thereof and who is unable to play or has undue difficulty in playing golf without the use of a motorised ride-on buggy

I, Dr.

Of

Certify that I have examined

Of

I am of the opinion that he/she has a disability within the meaning of section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or any statutory modification thereof and is unable to play or has undue difficulty in playing golf without the use of a motorised ride on golf buggy

Signed:

Dated:

APPENDIX 5

Medical form to be completed by the applicant's doctor for applicants who under their doctor's professional opinion have an incapacity that would prevent them from playing golf without the use of a motorised ride on golf buggy.

I, Dr.

Of

Certify that I have examined

Of

I am of the opinion that he/she has an incapacity that would prevent them from playing golf without the use of a motorised ride-on golf buggy.

Signed:

Dated: