

GOLF PLAY - WEATHER RELATED POLICIES

LIGHTNING POLICY & SAFETY PROCEDURES

Introduction:

The purpose of this policy is to outline responsibilities and safety procedures to follow should you be threatened by lightning on the Ballarat Golf Club Course.

The Club will continue to review its practices, update this policy accordingly and advise members of any changes.

Responsibilities:

- You must take responsibility for your personal safety and should take appropriate action when threatened by lightning.
- You must take responsibility for children in your care during thunderstorm activity.
- All players have the right to discontinue play if they believe there is danger from lightning.

Thunderstorm Identification and Monitoring:

- The Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) website will be used to determine the daily weather forecast for all official Club Competition days held on the Ballarat Golf Club Course.
- On official Club Competition days when a possible thunderstorm or thunderstorm is forecast, Pro Shop staff (or Management / Committee members when required) will monitor the weather using updated forecasts, severe weather alerts, live lightning maps and / or the rain radar tab on the BoM website.
- On other days it is the responsibility of the player to take the appropriate action.

Approaching Thunderstorm:

- You must stay alert to changes in sky conditions portending thunderstorm development.
- Once thunder can be heard, you can keep estimating the distance to the lightning activity by using the Flash-to-Bang reckoning method. The rule of thumb is that every 3 seconds of delay between a flash to thunder, equates to a distance of 1 kilometre.
- Play shall be deemed suspended Pro Shop staff (or Management / Committee members when required) during official Club Competition days when the Flash-to-Bang interval is determined to be 30 seconds or less.
- Whenever the Flash-to-Bang interval is less than 30 seconds (approx. 10 km distance to the lightning activity) players should mark their ball and seek a safe location to shelter.
- Players may resume play if they deem the weather to have improved and lightning activity has ceased.
- If the Pro Shop staff (or Management / Committee members when required) determine that the competition cannot be completed they will notify all golfers and for those on course when safe to do so .

Safe Locations to shelter:

- Inside the Club house, keeping away from windows and any appliances connected to outside electrical conductors.
- Inside a metal-skinned car or other vehicle.

Unsafe Locations to shelter:

- Standing beneath isolated trees, or touching or standing near any tree.
- Motorised golf buggies.
- Small, unprotected buildings.
- Umbrellas should not be used.

What to do if the safest action is not possible:

If the thunderstorm is above you and you are not able to take safe refuge, then you can minimise the risk of being struck or affected by the indirect effects of lightning by:

- Seek a depressed area, avoid high places.
- Keep away from large isolated trees.
- Assume a crouched position with your feet together.
- If in a group, keep at least 3 metres apart.

First Aid Treatment:

- There is no danger in touching a person who has been struck by lightning.
- Send for help or call 000 on your mobile as required.
- First Aid is required urgently and should be started without delay.

FROST POLICY

"In the event of a frost forming that will cause damage to the course, the Superintendent has the power to close the course. The Superintendent will evoke the "Course Closed due to frost" policy, players contact the Pro Shop. The course will remain closed until the danger of the frost has passed. The Superintendent will then notify the Pro Shop that the course will be available to members at a time set down by the Superintendent.

The Greens staff will do everything possible to remove the threat ASAP so play can start.

In the event that play cannot start on time and the full field will be disrupted due to a very late start, a number of morning groups may be withdrawn from the event or rescheduled later if free spots are available otherwise your entry fee will be refunded.

For Example: Play starts at 8am not 7:24, all players on time sheet prior to 8am will have their game cancelled and will need to reschedule their game in an available spot later"

Our course staff do take pro-active action to assist in the start of play including the use of the sprinkler system - but this cannot be done if the temperature remains too low as it simply creates more ice.

IF YOU ARE UNSURE IF PLAY IS ON - CALL THE PRO SHOP - 53383010. They are usually in a position to advise on play by 7:00AM

WEATHER CONDITIONS

- a. The course may be closed due to:
 - I. The cumulative effect of weather, or
 - II. The impending arrival of a storm
- b. Where the cumulative effect of weather is apparent, use of the course is to be restricted under the authority of the General Manager as advised by the Course Superintendent or their representative.
- c. When there is evidence of an impending serious storm, the course may be temporarily closed by either the:
 - I. General Manager
 - II. Course Superintendent or appointed representative
 - III. Club Captain
 - IV. Club Professional or appointed representative
- d. The course is to be reopened at the first practicable opportunity after being closed
- e. The General Manager is always to be informed when the course is closed by those making the decisions for its closure.

General

- a. Closure of the course for any reason other than weather related is to be authorised by the General Manager as advised by the Course Superintendent or their representative.

- b. The Pro Shop and club house must be notified as soon as possible
- c. Notice to this effect is to be displayed in the Pro Shop and email sent to the members as soon as possible.

FOG POLICY

In order to fulfil health and safety responsibilities, Ballarat Golf Club operates a fog policy. No play will take place on the course if a distance of 150 meters cannot be seen

Please Note

A decision to carry on playing during adverse weather conditions is left to the discretion of the player, who MUST accept full responsibility for his/her safety.

However, if the Horn sounds, the instructions below MUST be followed:

One long blast - it is mandatory that you leave the course.

If the Horn is not sounded and a player believes there is a real danger by proceeding, he/she is entitled to discontinue play under Rule 6-8 (A)

During winter months, if a delay in tee times due to inclement weather will stop any player from finishing their competition round, the Match Committee (golfshop staff) will either;

- a. Forfeit the tee times which were lost. i.e If the tee is closed until 7.43 all players prior to this time can either play in the next available vacancy or take up their position on the course relative to their originally scheduled start time; in this example the 7.15 group would start on the fifth tee, the 7.22 group would start on the fourth tee, the 7.29 group would start on the third tee and the 7.36 group on the second tee. The 7.43 group will be called to the tee.
- b. Reschedule tee times so that the timesheet is delayed. Some players teeing off in the afternoon will not be able to complete their round before dark.

To ensure the fairest outcome option a/ will be used on the 1st occasion, option b/ on the 2nd occasion and so forth, so that the same members are not disadvantaged by the delay in play.