



OLTON GOLF CLUB

Est. 1893

Course closures and restrictions policy

Weather

Lightning and fog can create unsafe conditions on the course and sometimes play must be suspended. Heavy rain, ice, darkness, and snow can also lead to unplayable conditions and unsafe conditions.

It is the responsibility of each Member and visitor to continuously assess their risk in adverse weather conditions to ensure safety for themselves and others on the course, and to take appropriate measures in the circumstances.

Any decision to close the course will be made by the Course Manager (CM) or designated senior green staff on duty who will make an assessment following a course inspection to review, playability, safety risk and ground stability and long-term damage. The findings will be communicated to the membership and visitors using the course update area of the Ig website and Ig application with a date/time of the next review. The shop will be informed of the decision and measures to be taken. When the course is to be reviewed later in the day the (CM) and shop will agree the process and update the communication. In the case of lightning and fog this decision will be made by the Head Professional (HP).

In making any decision about closing the course, health and safety considerations will always take priority.

1. LIGHTNING OR ELECTRICAL STORM, WHERE THERE IS A RISK OF IMMINENT DANGER

Lightning poses a serious risk of injury and death.

Criteria for closing the Course and how this will be done:

The club uses lightning apps, national weather forecasts, and monitoring of local weather conditions for making 'dangerous situation' decisions.

When the decision has been taken to close the course and suspend play for lightning, players anywhere on the course will hear a **one prolonged note of the klaxon**.

On hearing the klaxon, players must stop playing immediately, (and if in a competition) mark their ball, leave the course at once, and return to the Professional's Shop. In a competition, under the rules of golf, a player will be disqualified if they play another shot.

A player must stop play if they believe that there is danger from lightning and take whatever action they consider necessary to ensure their safety. They must report to the Professional's Shop when this happens.

Reopening the Course:

The situation will be reviewed by the (HP), after consultation with the (CM) and communicated to the membership.

Play cannot be resumed until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder/lightning strike.

When it is deemed to be safe, there will be **2 short notes on the klaxon**. Play can then resume.

Reducing risk when there is lightning:

Although there is no absolute protection from lightning, measures can be taken to reduce risk.

Players must stop playing golf immediately.

The following tips should also be adopted by players, and members of staff when caught in a lightning storm:

Seek:

- a large permanent enclosed building; or
- if there is no enclosed building, a vehicle such as a car or van; or
- if neither a building nor a vehicle are convenient, go to the lowest possible area around you.

Avoid:

- tall objects such as trees and poles.
- small shelters/huts/sheds.
- large open spaces, wet areas, or elevated areas; and
- all metal objects, such as golf clubs, trolleys, golf buggies, fences, electrical and greenkeeping machinery, and power lines.

Other tips if you cannot evacuate in time to a safer place:

spread out from the other people in your group; and

squat down, tuck your head in, and cover your ears.

Please head for the safest place as soon as the immediate danger has passed.

ROSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents), at www.rospa.com provides excellent guidance.

Members' responsibility

It is incumbent upon each member and visitor to assess the risks and ensure that they respond appropriately to ensure safe passage from the course to the clubhouse.

2. FOG

When there is significant fog and poor visibility on the course, players should not hit the ball further than the distance they can see in front of them.

However, if the fog density worsens, for health and safety reasons, the course will sometimes have to be closed. The following procedure will then apply to all players:

Criteria for closing the course and how this will be done:

The situation will be reviewed by the Head Professional (HP), after consultation with the (CM). If the large silver birch tree with the marker on that sits proud on the 2nd fairway (left hand side looking from the Clubhouse) is not visible then the course will be closed in all cases.

On hearing the klaxon, players must stop playing immediately, (and if in a competition mark their ball), leave the course at once, and return to the Professional's Shop. In a competition, under the rules of golf, a player will be disqualified if they play another shot.

3. UNPLAYABLE COURSE.

In certain situations, the course will be deemed to be unplayable. This can happen when the course is waterlogged, or there is snow, ice, or poor visibility. The following procedure will then apply to all players:

Criteria for closing the course and how this will be done:

The (CM) or senior greens staff on duty will make an assessment following an on-course inspection based upon the following factors: playability, safety risk assessment, ground stability, and long-term damage. Known susceptible areas will be checked including slopes, bridges, ridges, hollows, and high traffic areas. Following inspection should the course be closed, the (HP), (GM) and Director of Greens (DG) will be informed and a communication sent to the membership.

If there is a chance of some improvement, then the date/time of the next review will be stated.

Course Playability

- Stage 1 – Course fully open, buggies and trollies permitted in all areas.
- Stage 2 – Full 18 holes open for carrying, trolleys and for those with dispensation to use a two-seater buggy.
- Stage 3 – Full 18 holes open for carrying and those with dispensation to use a trolley. A shortened course for those with dispensation to use a two-seater buggy. The shortened course detail is available in the Pro Shop.
- Stage 4 – Full 18 holes open for carry only. A shortened course for those with dispensation to use a two-seater buggy or trolley.
- Stage 5 – Course closed.

Abandoned competitions due to unplayable conditions.

If there is no chance of resumption of play within one hour, any competition being played will be abandoned.

If at least 67% of the field has completed 18 holes a competition is deemed to have been completed.

The scores of players who have completed 10 or more holes are acceptable for handicap purposes; all holes not completed should be marked **NS** as opposed to **NR**.

The scores of all of the remaining players will be discarded.

All players who have not completed 18 holes will have their competition fee refunded.

4. SUMMARY OF KLAXON SIGNALS

- Suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signalled by **“one prolonged note of the klaxon.”**
- Suspension of play for all other reasons will be signalled by **“three consecutive notes of the klaxon.”**
- Resumption of play will be signalled by **“two short notes if the klaxon.”**

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