



Adverse Weather Policy

INTRODUCTION

Frinton Links Golf Club is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all of our members, guests and employees.

GUIDANCE

To ensure the aims, objectives and values of the Club are met, and all aspects of the law are observed, the following applies to all areas of the golf course, which includes the practise area:

1. Adverse weather on the golf course is one of the many potential hazards golfers and members of the public will encounter on the course.
2. The fact the course has not been officially closed does not warrant that it is fit for play.
3. Players have duty of care not to behave in such a way that others may be injured by their actions. They also have a duty of care not to injure themselves, therefore, golfers must take steps to ensure their own safety in adverse weather conditions.
4. Adverse weather is described as:
 - i. Fog
 - ii. Thunder and lightning
 - iii. Heavy rain
 - iv. High winds
5. When any of the above conditions represent an unacceptable hazard to members and guests, the course will be closed or play suspended. This decision resides with:
 - i. The Head Greenkeeper
 - ii. The Golf Manager
 - iii. The Office/Club Manager
 - iv. The Club H&S Representative

6. Closure of the course will be adequately displayed/ communicated when possible.
7. Suspension of play will be notified by one prolonged note on an air horn (klaxon); play should be discontinued immediately, and shelter should be sought.
8. The signal to resume play will be several short notes repeated on the air horn (klaxon).

Thunder, lightning and the 30/30 rule

- 30-60 people are struck by lightning each year in Britain, and on average, 3 (5-10%) of these strikes are fatal.
- People struck by lightning are predominantly hit before and after the peak of the storm.
- The 30/30 rule provides a good way of ensuring you are sheltering during the riskiest parts of the storm.
- If the flash to bang is 30 seconds in length or less, you should seek shelter.
- Staying inside this shelter is advised until 30 minutes past the last clap of thunder, this ensures relative safety from distant strikes at the beginning of the storm as lightning can travel up to 10 miles.

Seeking Shelter

- Ideally, seek shelter in the clubhouse, keeping clear of wide-open spaces and exposed hilltops.
- If the clubhouse is too far away, your best protection is to leave your clubs and crouch down in a bunker.
- Do not shelter beneath tall or isolated trees, it has been estimated that one in four people struck by lightning are sheltering under trees.

Fog and Mist

- Fog is distinguished from mist only by its density, resulting in a decrease in visibility to less than 1km, whereas mist reduces visibility to no less than 1km but less than 2km.
- Play shall not commence, or if underway shall stop when visibility is reduced to less than 245 yards.
- Whilst on the course, if fog descends and if play has not been suspended, the responsibility to continue play resides with the player.
- As a general rule you must be able to see a minimum of 245 yards

Storm, winds and rain

- In the unlikely event the playing conditions are such that heavy rain or high winds become an unacceptable hazard, the same procedure applies as for other adverse weather conditions, see note 5.

SUMMARY

It is essential the club protects club employees, contractors, members, guests and visitors from the risk of injury wherever possible. It shows we care about each other. It also reduces the probability of litigation and financial damage to the club you own through uninsured risks and fines. It is in everyone's interests that the Adverse Weather Policy is strictly observed by everyone in the Club.

The policy will be enforced by the Office/Club Manager, working together with the Golf Manager and Course Manager. The Professional Staff (or assistants) will deputise in the event of a Manager's absence. Their decision will be final and must be observed.