

INFORMATION FOR ALL GOLFERS

General Principles

Billingsbear Park G.C. believes that all members, visitors and staff, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, have a right to enjoy the facilities of the course without fear or hinderance. All persons who enter the site whether a club member, pay and play golfer or visitor are considered to have agreed to abide by the principles contained in the Code of Conduct.

Code of Conduct

Personal responsibilities:

- At all times, patrons of Billingsbear Park are required to show respect for others in speech and behaviour, on and off the course.
- The dress code of the club prohibits the wearing of jeans, tracksuits, singlets/vests or studded footwear not specifically designed for golf when on the course. Suitable attire and clean footwear must be worn at all times in the clubhouse. No smoking is allowed in the clubhouse or covered area.

Course etiquette:

- Observe the Rules of Golf and Local Rules.
- Be on the tee, ready to play by your designated tee time.
- Mobile phones must be switched off or put on silent mode during play.
- All golfers must maintain a reasonable pace of play by following the measures listed at the end of this document.
- Remain stationary and do not talk while others are playing their shots.
- Show consideration for green staff working on the course and be prepared to wait for them to move aside or out of range.
- A provisional ball must be taken when it is suspected the original ball may be lost or out of bounds.
- Play safely – allow group ahead to clear before making your stroke, but be ready to play without delay. Warn other golfers when a wayward shot is played.
- Leave your trolley/bag between the green and the next tee, do not mark your card before moving clear of the green.
- Buggies must not be driven onto the tees or collar of the green and must keep to the paths when so directed by the club staff.

Care of the course:

- Remember to replace your divots.
- Repair pitch marks on the green.
- Always smooth/rake the sand before you leave the bunker.
- Avoid damage to trees and bushes during the course of play wherever possible.

Maintaining the Pace of Play:

- Arrive early and warm up before your tee time not when you should be driving off.
- Allow short hitters to play first, as soon as the preceding group are out of range.
- Always play a provisional ball if your ball may be lost or out of bounds, not just from the tee but also elsewhere on the course.
- Keep up with the group ahead, not keep ahead of the group behind!
- Call through a faster group through, especially if losing ground to the group ahead or searching for a lost ball.
- Don't dawdle between strokes, move off without delay.

- Limit your pre-shot routine - seven practice swings or viewing putts from every angle is not necessary!
- Play 'Ready Golf ' if it is safe to do so and your partner is not ready to play.
- Don't leave your trolley or bag where you have to walk back down the course to collect it or in front of the green when putting out.
- Mark your card on the way to the next tee or while the first player is teeing off, not by the previous green!

Patience please!

As Billingbear Park is a nine-hole course, occasionally a delay may occur on the 1st/10th tee when golfers doing 18 holes arrive from the 9th green to play their 10th hole.

On such occasions, golfers are asked to show patience and consideration.

A group on the tee have priority and will play first, thereafter, groups playing their second nine will alternate on the tee with groups beginning their round.

Winter play

During the colder and wetter months of late Autumn and Winter as the conditions on the course become more difficult, the following Local Rules and procedures will be applied as appropriate to ensure pace of play, help players enjoy their game, and to protect the golf course.

Note; More detailed rules advice may be found under Course Information.

Preferred Lies

During the period defined for preferred lies, players should mark, lift, clean and replace their ball within 6" of the original spot but not nearer the hole.

Embedded ball

When a player's ball is embedded in the ground it should be lifted, cleaned and replaced within one club length of the original spot but not nearer the hole.

Teeing mats and temporary greens

On occasion, teeing mats or temporary greens may be necessary on the course while maintenance activities are taking place or to protect areas at risk of damage.

Fog on the course

Billingbear Park Golf Course is not responsible for the safety of golfers who choose to play in foggy conditions. A golfer who choose to play when there is fog on the course does so at their own risk and is solely responsible for injury or damage caused by them to other golfers or their equipment.

On occasions when the landing area of the ball is obscured by fog or low-lying mist, each player MUST ensure the landing area of the ball is clear before playing their stroke.

When in doubt, is recommended that the player walks forward to check it is safe to play before returning and making the stroke.

Abnormal whole-course conditions

To protect the course during very wet conditions on the course, golfers may be required to tee-up everywhere when making a stroke, except for on the greens or in penalty areas.

When this requirement is in force no rounds may be used for handicap purposes and all competitions will be declared as non-qualifying.

Suspension of Play:

At any time during the year, golfers may be required to evacuate the course because of lightning in the area. On hearing one long blast of the airhorn they must immediately suspend play and return to the club house. There is also a temporary shelter by the 6th tee for those unable to return to the main building. A resumption of play will be signalled by two short blasts of the airhorn, repeated.

Complaints:

Complaints should be made to the management in writing. All complaints will be investigated and action taken to address the concern by the management, as deemed appropriate.

Disciplinary procedures:

The management reserve the right to take such disciplinary measures as considered necessary, in upholding the principles outlined in this code of conduct, up to and including the suspension of membership or expulsion from the course. The management shall not be held liable for loss of green fees or other costs incurred by persons who, because of their failure to abide by the code of conduct, are suspended or excluded from the course.

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