

EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

The Tocumwal Golf and Bowls Club Extreme Weather Policy has been introduced to provide guidance to members and guests in relation to playing conditions which might impact on the health and wellbeing of players on the golf course.

The Extreme Weather Policy addresses issues of extreme heat, lightning, strong winds and also the need to suspend play when greens become unplayable due to heavy rain or other circumstances.

Extreme Heat

Heat Policy:

“Should the forecast temperature at 5pm on the evening before the day of competition be 40 degrees or more the competition for that day will be cancelled”

- The course will remain open for members’ play.
- Time sheet bookings will remain so that all members who have booked will be assured of their game if they wish to play.
- Should the event for the day be of a significant nature eg; Medal, the event will be transferred to a date to be determined.
- Should the forecast temperature at 6pm as above be 42 degrees or more the course will be closed.

Rationale:

1. The Club has a duty of care to its members and seeks to take a reasonable approach to days of extreme heat.
2. The Club is cognisant of advice given by GV and Sports Medicine Australia and expressed in the GV Heat Policy.
3. The Club is concerned for the health and wellbeing of all its members.
4. The average age of competition fields is more than 60 years of age.
5. The Club is concerned for any possible litigation arising out of a heat related situation.
6. Cancellation of the competition of the day is advice from the Club that it considers that it is too hot for play.
7. Members who play on days of extreme heat do so at their own risk. Members are advised to take appropriate actions to prevent heat stress.
8. The Club reminds all players about the appropriate measures to be taken to avoid heat stress, heat stroke, heat cramps and heat exhaustion.
9. The members will have certainty and will know from the forecast at 6pm of what to expect on the following day.
10. Members are advised that on days of extreme heat course staff might be involved in additional watering of greens and other areas susceptible to heat stress particularly during morning and later in the day.

Lightning:

The Rules of Golf acknowledge that lightning on golf courses has caused deaths and injuries and urges golf clubs to take precautions for the protection of golfers against lightning. Rule 6-8b and Appendix 1-5 make provision for “Suspension of Play due to a Dangerous Situation”. Such provision permits the Committee to suspend play or for players to discontinue play if they believe that there is a danger from lightning.

When play is suspended by the Committee all players should discontinue play immediately. The Committee will determine when play is to resume. Failure to discontinue play on advice of the Committee will result in disqualification.

Players who discontinue play without specific Committee permission must report to the Committee as soon as practicable. No penalty will be applied if the reason is satisfactory. Otherwise the player will be disqualified.

Policy:

“Should lightning be in the immediate vicinity of the golf course the Committee will consider the risk and if the situation is considered dangerous will, in the interests of health and safety of the players, suspend play.”

One prolonged note of a siren will advise members to discontinue play immediately.

Two short notes of the siren, repeated, will signal resumption of play. Players who fail to resume play immediately on the signal for resumption will be disqualified.

Strong Winds:

Members are advised and reminded of the dangers of limbs falling from trees on days of extreme winds(50kph or more). Members are advised to be aware of the forecast of strong winds and give consideration to their own personal safety while out on the course.

Policy:

“Should the forecast at 6pm on the day before competition be for winds likely to exceed 50kph members will be reminded of the possible dangers of falling limbs or trees. Should a situation arise where the Match Committee considers such winds to be a danger to members, play will be suspended.”

Course Unplayable

If the committee considers that for any reason the course is not in a playable condition or that there are circumstances that render the proper playing of the game impossible it may order temporary suspension of play or cancel all scores for the round.

On advice from the Committee of a situation which warrants suspension of play may be discontinued immediately or continue to play out the hole provided they do so without delay. Play must be discontinued after the completion of the hole.

Siren Notification Procedures:

Suspension of Play

Suspension of play will be signalled by Three (3) blasts repeated of the siren. Play may continue to the completion of the current hole, or alternatively balls may be marked if completion is not practicable. Players should return to the Clubhouse until further notice and await advice on resumption.

Emergency Evacuation

One (1) continuous blast of the siren. Players should cease play immediately and return to the Clubhouse.

Resumption of Play

Two (2) short blasts of the siren. Players should return to their positions immediately and resume play.