

Newbury & Crookham Golf Club
Buggy Policy - Use of 1 and 2 seater Buggies

Introduction

Newbury & Crookham Golf Club supports an inclusivity policy that encourages golfers with physical difficulties or limitations due to disability, injury, age etc... to play the game if at all possible. It recognises that the use of a buggy can greatly assist many in doing so.

Other golfers may just through personal choice wish to use a buggy. (Please see later about Use of Buggies in Competitions.)

The purpose of this document is to establish a standard for the safe operation of all buggies on the golf course and club's premises. The document also sets down the responsibilities of the person who hires or owns a buggy, the criteria to be applied and conditions to be met when the club considers applications for their use.

Qualifications:

Use of a buggy will not be allowed unless authorised by the Club; this is the General Manager or a member of the Pro shop team.

The hirer of a buggy or a buggy owner is the person responsible for its operation on the golf course or the golf club's premises.

Any person who operates a buggy on the golf club's premises is deemed by so doing, to have the knowledge and skill to safely operate the vehicle and will be fully accountable and responsible for their actions and any consequences.

The buggy operator should ensure buggies use pathways, where available, particularly in wet conditions. Buggies should not be driven on to tees or within 5 metres of greens. In addition, buggies should not be driven between green side bunkers and the greens. Areas should also be avoided where indicated by golf course signage, communication relayed to golfers by email, Pro shop staff or on the club's website or areas that have been ringed or roped off.

Extreme caution should be used when operating a buggy in the car park and clubhouse area.

The safe operation of buggies requires conscientious application and adherence to the duty of care prescribed by this policy.

During the winter rules period of preferred lies (normally October through to April) buggies are only available to hire by golf club members or visitors who have a physical disability. The club reserves the right to ask for and see medical evidence of their disability.

Buggies must be operated in accordance with the requirements of the following documents:

- Buggy Policy (this document)
- Buggy Safe Working Practice
- Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form
- Risk Assessment for Buggy use at N&C golf club for different weather and ground conditions

In order that these conditions can in practice be met, the Club's General Manager or a member of the Pro Shop team must be given prior notice of a requirement by a member or visitor to hire and use a buggy. The Club reserves the right to refuse permission if all of the conditions stipulated are not complied with.

From time to time the Club may determine that the state of the course, weather and/or ground conditions or forecast is such that safety on or the condition of the course may be unacceptably compromised if a buggy is used. This might apply to the whole course or just part of the course. Potentially unsuitable

conditions include waterlogging, frost, ice, snow etc... Where such conditions arise, the club will review the situation on at least a twice daily basis. All of these conditions will be taken into account and will be categorised under 1 of 7 different scenarios (for further details please refer the Risk Assessment for Buggy use mentioned above).

For days with poor weather and/or ground conditions, eg. very wet conditions, different rules may apply to 1 and 2 seater buggies. For example, following the Head Greenkeeper's course inspection, only 1 seater buggies are allowed on the lower section of the course. The two main considerations here are the safety of all golfers and secondly the risk of course damage, eg. tyre and skid marks from buggies.

Buggy use monitoring

To ensure buggies are being operated in a safe manner and conform to all Buggy related documents referred to above the operation of buggies on and off the course will be monitored. The green staff and the golf club's members have been asked to report any misuse or breach of the conditions to the office or Pro shop.

Use of Buggies in Competitions

For competition golf, the use of a buggy is allowed but should not be used to gain any advantage for a player who would not usually use a buggy for health or mobility reasons. Specifically for 36 hole competitions played on the same day, the use of a buggy will only be permitted for a player that has a valid medical reason, and has obtained permission from the Club's General Manager to use one on that day.

Phil Allen
Health & Safety
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