

Risk Assessment for Buggy use (includes both 1 and 2 seater buggies) at N&C golf club for different weather and ground conditions

The following **Risk Assessment** was carried out by Phil Allen with input from the General Manager, Gareth Williams, and the Head Greenkeeper, Chris Ball.

A recent document from the National Golf Clubs' Advisory Association (NGCAA) says that the safe use of buggies on the golf course must be considered to ensure compliance with both Equality and Health & Safety legislation. This means that member and visitor golfers who have a physical disability must have the same opportunity to play on the golf course and use the club's facilities as non-disabled persons. Golf clubs should make every effort to accommodate both disabled and non-disabled golfers and can make reasonable adjustments to help satisfy this objective. However, golf clubs should consider and make allowances for important factors like health and safety reasons, eg. slippery conditions etc... and take measures to avoid or reduce anticipated damage to the course, eg. tyre and skid marks from buggies.

Scenario *	Nature of Risk	Exposed Risk H/M/L	Controls / Mitigating Factors	Residual Risk H/M/L
1. Full course open, no restrictions.	Personal injury, injury to others and damage to the course even when weather and ground conditions are good, ie. business as usual.	Low	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Buggy hirers or owners should adhere to the club's Buggy Policy and Safe Working Practice documents. Both documents are available to view in the Pro shop and/or on the website. 2. Buggy hirers should read and sign the Safety Policy Acknowledgement form before hire commences. 3. Buggies should use pathways where available. 4. Extreme caution should be used when operating a buggy in the car park and clubhouse area. 5. Only those aged 17 or older and hold a full, valid driving licence can operate a buggy. 6. Signs on the golf course warning buggy operators of dangerous or forbidden areas must be observed. 7. Buggies should be operated with courtesy, care and consideration at all times for the safety of other buggy and golf club users. People on foot must be afforded the right of way at all times. 8. Buggy operators should always consider the terrain as well as the environmental factors that may affect vehicle safety: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8.1 Drive only as fast as the terrain and safety considerations allow. 8.2 Drive the buggy straight up and down slopes to reduce the risk of the buggy tipping over. 8.3 Slow down before corners. 8.4 Execute all turns at reduced speed. 8.5 Avoid sudden stops or changes in direction. 9. Buggies should only be operated on golf course property and in daylight hours. 10. The consumption of alcohol and/or the improper use of drugs when operating a buggy is strictly forbidden. 11. Buggies should only be used for the number of occupants it was designed to carry and only be people who are authorised to use one. 12. Buggies must not be driven on to tees, greens, the slopes leading up to them or between green side bunkers and greens. 13. Off the golf course buggies should be parked safely and with consideration to other golf club users. The parking brake should be engaged. 14. Operation of buggies may be monitored by members, green staff and CCTV. Misuse to be reported to the General Manager who has the authority to prohibit anyone from using a buggy. 	L

2. Full course open but with restrictions due to poor weather and /or ground conditions.	Personal injury, injury to others and damage to course.	H/M	All of the above as per Scenario 1 above, plus: 15. Areas should be avoided where indicated by course signage, communications relayed to golfers by email or the Pro shop, ringed and roped off areas of the course.	M
3. Full course open but buggies only allowed on holes 10 to 18 due to poor weather and / or ground conditions on the lower section of the course.	Personal injury, injury to others and damage to course.	H/M	All of the above as per Scenario 1 and 2 above, plus: 16. The club may determine that for days where the weather or forecast or ground conditions is such that personal safety on or the condition of the course may be compromised if a buggy is used, eg. very wet conditions, the rules for 1 and 2 seater buggies may vary following the Head Greenkeeper's course inspection. As a result, different rules may apply to 1 seater buggies than 2 seater buggies, eg. 1 seater buggies may be allowed on the lower section of the course but not 2 seater buggies.	M
4. Top 9 holes only open – holes 1 and 11 to 18. Buggies allowed.	Personal injury, injury to others and damage to course.	H/M	As above.	M
5. Top 9 holes only open – holes 1 and 11 to 18. Buggies not allowed.	Personal injury, injury to others and damage to course.	H/M	As above.	M
6. Frosty conditions.	Personal injury, injury to others and damage to course.	H	17. Scenario 1 and 2 plus: For days with a frost, buggies will not be allowed on to the course until the frost has cleared. As a guideline this may be around 11am. The Head Greenkeeper will inform the Pro shop and General Manager when buggies are allowed. Different rules may apply to 1 and 2 seater buggies.	L
7. Whole course closed for all.	Personal injury, injury to others and damage to course.	H	Course closed for all so risk eliminated.	No Risk

*** Scenario**

As above, for each day of the year the Head Greenkeeper will allocate which Scenario applies for each given day. For circa. 95% of the time it is anticipated that Scenario 1 will apply (and will be the default position) where weather and course conditions allow normal play.

Additional Measures available for all of the risks identified above:

These mitigating measures and restrictions are in place to help satisfy our legal and moral responsibilities to provide a safe environment for all and to help preserve the condition of the golf course. It should also be noted that all staff and golfers should be aware of and exercise a **Duty of Care** to minimise the risks of personal injury, injury to others and damage to the course.