



Minchinhampton Golf Club

Adverse Weather Policy

Introduction

Minchinhampton Golf Club (MGC) is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our members, guests, and employees. This Policy applies to all areas of the Golf Courses, including the Driving Range and Practice Areas and confirms the protocols to provide protection against personal injury or damage to the course during adverse weather conditions.

It remains an individual's responsibility to make themselves aware of the Club's Policy set out below relating to adverse weather conditions during both general play and competitions and to take reasonable steps to protect themselves and others during adverse conditions.

Monitoring of Conditions

MGC undertakes to monitor conditions whenever courses, practice areas and/or the driving range are open as follows:

- Monitor local weather reports.
- Monitor local conditions during "storm warnings".

When such monitoring establishes adverse weather conditions risk control through a "tiered response" is likely.

Responsibilities

The following are considered to represent adverse weather conditions, which are likely to result in steps being taken to protect players and the courses:

1. Lightning
2. Fog
3. Ice & Snow
4. Storm conditions including dangerously high winds and flooding.
5. Extreme Heat (humidity and exposure)

An appointed person will take responsibility for enacting the adverse weather policy. The decision to act rests with the General Manager, as advised by the relevant members of the Management Team, and in his absence, as follows:

Adverse Weather Condition	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Lightning	Starter or delegate from the Golf Team	MGC Professional Team	Duty Manager
Fog	Starter or delegate from the Golf Team	MGC Professional Team	Duty Manager
Ice and Snow	Courses Manager or delegate from the Course Team	Starter or delegate from the Golf Team	MGC Professional Team
Strong Winds, Heavy Rain and Waterlogging	Courses Manager or delegate from the Course Team	MGC Professional Team	Duty Manager
Extreme heat	Golf Team Sun Ambassador	MGC Professional Team	Duty Manager

General Procedures

In the event of adverse weather, monitoring of weather outlook and course conditions will determine whether any of the three courses can be opened, taking into account the forecast and likelihood of deterioration in conditions developing a significant risk to players or of damage to the courses. If the courses are closed, notices will be erected at course entries and posted on the MGC Website.

If, after opening the courses, conditions deteriorate such that the risk level is deemed unacceptable, a decision to close may be taken by the person on site with the authority to do so, following the hierarchy set out in the table above. In the event of a sudden deterioration, players are expected to use their own judgement to suspend play immediately rather than await formal notification. "Inclement" weather may result in suspension of play if damage is anticipated, in which case it may be possible to mitigate this risk by adjusting permissions for use of buggies, trolleys etc., thereby allowing some play to proceed safely in accordance with the **MGC Buggy and Trolley Use Policy**.

Lightning

The courses are likely to be closed in the event of a lightning storm overhead and when the forecast indicates that an existing storm is approaching, with an audible alarm used for confirmation. If the storm passes and the forecast indicates that a return during the day is unlikely, a decision to resume may be taken and confirmed by the MGC professional Team, with the course status updated on the website. If courses are closed due to lightning all players should seek shelter in the clubhouses immediately.

Fog

The risk assessment relating to Fog is based on visibility from known position(s). If visibility deteriorates during the day to such a point that the risk of allowing the course to remain open is deemed unacceptable, the courses may be closed as confirmed by an audible alarm* and physical notices at course entry and via the website. If conditions improve during the day a review may be undertaken, using the same assessment procedure as before and where appropriate a decision to resume may be taken announced by the Golf Team and/or the MGC Professional Team, by removing the on-course notices and via the website.

Ice and Snow

In the event of a significant snowfall, the courses are likely to be closed and remain closed until the snow clears. At times of freezing weather, reasonable steps will be taken to prevent build-up of ice in the car park and on the paths and hardstandings around the clubhouse. Potential for damage to the courses due to footfall and traffic over frozen ground and/or standing ice may produce responses ranging from a change to temporary greens, through suspension of use of buggies/trolleys, to full course closure where the risks cannot otherwise be controlled. Suspension of the use of buggies and of trolleys to control risk will be based on a tiered Risk Assessment, which considers the needs of all golfers, and which avoids, wherever possible, limiting access to any particular group. This approach reflects Minchinhampton Golf Club's objective to keep the courses open, whenever possible, during the winter.

Heavy Rain, High Winds, Waterlogging

If prolonged heavy rainfall and/or strong winds are anticipated ahead of the start of play, the Course Manager or delegate will be available to determine if any restrictions are deemed necessary. If a decision to close the courses completely is taken, a supplementary review may be scheduled and any resulting change in status advised by Golf Team and/or the MGC Professional Team and posted on the website. If restricted use of the courses or a switch to temporary greens is considered appropriate, The Golf Team and/or the MGC Professional Team will be asked to confirm. Suspension of the use of buggies and of trolleys to control risk may be considered under a tiered Risk Assessment, which considers the needs of all golfers, and which avoids, wherever possible, limiting access to any particular group.

If the weather deteriorates during the day to the point that there is a likelihood of play becoming unsafe, or potential for the courses to suffer significant damage, a decision to close the courses and suspend play may be taken. Such closure will be notified by an audible alarm* by closure notice signs placed at course entry points and on the website.

Sun, Heat and Humidity

Prolonged periods of extreme heat, whilst infrequent do carry increased risk of heat exhaustion and dehydration in addition to the usual risk of u.v. exposure in summer months. Closure of the courses during periods of sustained hot weather is unlikely but measures to protect golfers are made available as follows:

- Drinking water dispensers are located in the New Course's changing rooms and the main entrance area of the Old Course. During periods covered by a Met Office warning for extreme heat, on-course dispensers will, whenever possible, be provided at suitable locations on the courses.
- Players are asked to consider the implications of any pre-existing medical conditions and take steps to mitigate the risk to them personally.
- All golfers are reminded to carry sufficient water with them plus UV protection, including hats/caps.
- An on-course smoking ban may be introduced.

General Play

If closure due to adverse weather results in golfers missing their allotted tee time, every effort will be made to reschedule the booking at the soonest mutually convenient opportunity. If a visiting golfer's tee time cannot be rescheduled after a AWC event a refund will be offered.

If interruption of play due to adverse weather is likely, the Golf Team and/or MGC Professional Team will advise and look to reallocate tee times where possible. If a visiting golfer has started a round and a tee time cannot be rescheduled after a delay, a voucher for a free round will be offered.

Competitions

Adverse weather will be dealt with in accordance with The Rules of Golf (2023). Further details can be found on the R&A Website under Rule 5.7.

During the play of a formal competition when there is a significant risk of adverse weather conditions, the following competition rules are likely to be applied:

- Suspension of the competition will be confirmed by an audible alarm, supplemented by on-course notifications.
- A competitor will be required to stop play, to mark the position of their ball, lift the ball and then leave the course.
- Any player continuing play, after play has been suspended, will be disqualified from the competition.
- The competition will be resumed only when it is safe so to do.
- If the Golf Team or in their absence the MGC professional Team do not consider it safe to resume play, the competition will be cancelled/abandoned.

*** Installation of an audible alarm to cover all areas of the Old Course may not be feasible, as the common land is owned and managed by The National Trust and has multiple uses. A new audible alarm system is being developed for the New Courses to ensure it can be heard from all areas of both Cherington and Avening. Until fully operational, other temporary measures will be used to provide "on-course" confirmation of closure on all three MGC courses.**

Version Control:

Version	Risk Committee review date	Board endorsement date	Changes
V1		June 2017	
V2	12/01/2022		Annual Review
V2		31/01/2022	Board Approved – no changes
V2.3			Output from AWP review meeting
V2.4			Board and Legal review
V2.5			Review by Golf & Professional
V2.6		26/03/2024	Changes agreed at Board
V3.0		26/03/2024	Board Approved

