

# Guidance for returning to golf

Firstly, we wish to express our appreciation to you, as a Member of Orkney Golf Club for the patience and understanding that you've shown during the period that the Club has been closed.

Friday 29th May has been confirmed as the day that golf clubs can plan for a return to golf, **subject** to a final decision to be made by the First Minister on 28<sup>th</sup> May. This, however, comes initially with restrictions to play and only allows for golf where you are playing with members of your own household or with one other person.

The policy below, which has been approved by the Committee, has been prepared to advise you of the Club's approach following our return to golf. Our policy & guidance are based on advice from government, health authorities and golf's governing bodies and is in line with the gradual lifting of social restrictions. It will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

A word of warning though, before you read on. Golf will look very different to what was considered 'normal' in the past. All golf will initially be booked online. The various measures / restrictions that we have put in place seek to ensure that members are as safe as possible. For the time being, there will be no competitions, **no-roll-ups** and we will be playing **SOCIAL GOLF ONLY**. Throughout your time at the Club, please comply with the social distancing measures that we're now all very familiar with.

## PLAY SAFE

### Golf Courses - Booking & Arrival

#### Booking

- All golf must be pre-booked online via the new tee booking system on our website, located in the Members Information section
- Members can only book themselves and immediate playing partners, who must also be members, in for a single start time. Bookings can be subsequently cancelled or amended

- If you are unable to make a booked tee-time, you must cancel it preferably giving at least 24hrs notice
- In the interests of fairness to your fellow members, we respectfully invite you to please:
  - delaying making booking at weekends (prior to Friday morning) if you are able to play during the week, so that people working/key workers can make their booking first
  - consider playing outside 'peak' times
  - do not book tee off times more than 7 days in advance
- 1<sup>st</sup> Tee reservations commence at 7.30am and run at 10 minute intervals through to 7.30pm, there is to be no play before 7.30am to allow the greens staff to carry out their duties
- Initially all players must commence their game from the 1<sup>st</sup> tee, commencing at the 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> tees is forbidden
- Play will initially be mostly in 2 balls. To book two people in one slot, both names must be put into the booking at the same time, this is also a requirement to assist with contact tracing should the need arise
- Play in 3 or 4 balls will only be permitted if all players are from the same household
- Initially it will be members only playing on the course
- Juniors must be accompanied by an adult

### Arrival at the Club

- Arrive at the Club no more than 15 minutes prior to reserved tee time
- Arrive in golf attire and change footwear in the car park
- The trolley store will be open for collection only but please be careful re hard surfaces

## **PLAY SAFE**

### **Clubhouse Facilities**

- The Clubhouse will initially be open for access to the lockers only. There should only be one person at a time in the clubhouse and trolley store. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLUBHOUSE WILL BE CLOSED FROM MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE.
- Hand sanitizer is available in the players foyer and should be used on entry and exit of the clubhouse
- Members are asked to remove their clubs, shoes and trolley from the clubhouse and take them home. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLUBHOUSE WILL BE CLOSED FROM MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE.
- All bar and catering facilities will remain closed until further notice.

### **Practice Area**

- The practice area is closed and the practice net is not available
- The practice green is open but only available to golfers prior to them commencing their round.

### **To the First Tee**

- Arrive at the 1st tee no more than 5 minutes prior to reserved tee time
- Tee-off times are at 10 minute intervals and are to be strictly observed
- Before commencing play, mark your ball distinctively to aid identification. Do not touch stray balls or other items that others may have been in contact with.

## **On the Course (see also Local Rules below)**

- Physical distancing to be observed at all times with your playing partner, other golfers and greens staff.
- Ball washers have been covered and rubbish bins have been removed, so please take all rubbish home.
- Bunker rakes have been removed. Please smooth sand with your feet or club after your shot.
- Do not touch the flagstick. Putt with the flagstick in and remove your own ball from the hole. Remember not every putt needs to be holed in casual golf.
- Once a hole is completed, the player(s) in front must have exited the tee box before you can progress to the next hole.
- Avoid slow play and keep up with the player(s) in front.
- Do not pick up another player's equipment or golf ball.
- You must refrain from handshakes.

Please remember that since the lockdown we have been operating with a reduced number of green keepers. We are still not up to full strength and therefore golfers will notice some reduction in our usual very high standards.

Examples include:

- Bunkers may not be prepared to the usual standard (see new local rules below).
- Greens may be a little slower. Staff will not have time to repair pitch marks.
- Course divot repairs may not be as frequent as usual - please repair your own divots.
- Spot treatment of weeds will not be possible and there will be little time for strimming.
- Divot boxes have been removed from the tees - please repair your divots

## **Local Rules**

Orkney Golf Club has introduced a number of temporary local rules to be followed during the "initial social play" period.

- Putting with the flagstick in is compulsory - flagsticks must not be touched under any circumstances.

- Hole-liners will be in use and a ball is considered “holed” if any part is below ground level.
  - A ball within 12 inches of the hole will be considered holed with the next stroke (a ‘Gimme’). As a general rule a standard putter grip is approximately 12 inches long.
  - Pick and place within one club length no nearer the hole in all bunkers.
- The Committee will update all members as and when there are any significant changes to the social play period.

## **After Your Round - social distancing remains important**

- When your round is over, please do not shake hands
- The Shoe Cleaner has been turned off, so may not be used

We will keep you advised of updates to these procedures when the Scottish Government and Scottish Golf issue further updates.

Failure to comply with these requests and regulations may jeopardise the course being open. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation. We are really looking forward to your return!

Best wishes and ***‘Play Safe, Stay Safe!’***

Aly Bruce

Captain

Orkney Golf Club

22th May 2020