

Risk Assessment taken 17 May 21

Procedures for playing golf under 'Play Safe, Stay Safe' Guidance, based upon a risk assessment undertaken 17 May 21, in place for period 17 May 21 - 21 June 21.

1. Before your Round (Booking and Arrival)
2. Playing Golf
3. After the Round
4. Driving Range
5. Feeling unwell.

1. Before your Round

Bookings

All bookings can be made in advance using the BRS booking system. If you do not have a computer you can telephone 01525 240196 to make a booking between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Members can book 10 days in advance and non-members 7 days in advance.

All members must provide contact details when joining the club. All visitors, whether entering the pro shop to play golf or use the driving range, must give contact details for track and trace purposes. The NHS QR Code poster is displayed on both pro shop doors for you to use as an alternative to giving contact details at shop reception.

Members and visitors should take note that full names (Christian name and surname) are now required on the booking tee sheet to assist pro shop staff to identify everyone, gather their contact details and keep groups apart.

Arrival and Waiting to Play

It is illegal for gatherings of more than 30 people to take place outdoors and for more than 6 to take place indoors.

Before leaving home use your own loo! This sounds like the 'nanny state' but it will practically avoid overcrowding in our toilet areas.

The changing rooms may now be used but a one-way system is in operation in both the ladies and men's changing rooms that will rotate golfers in one direction around the changing room as shown by the one way arrows. If the toilets are being used there is a 2m separation queuing system in both changing rooms as indicated by the black and yellow tape across the floor. Golf lockers may now be used - however, it is imperative that social distancing is maintained within the changing rooms and that face coverings are also used. Clubhouse staff will make periodic checks of the changing rooms to ensure that social distancing is being maintained.

The showers have failed our risk assessment and will remain closed. Showering keeps someone within the changing room for a prolonged period of time and hence it would be too difficult to maintain social distancing if showers opened.

Follow the one way arrows from the car park to the golf shop. Arrive 12 minutes before your tee time. If you arrive too early then please either remain in your car or hit a bucket of balls in the range.

When you arrive at the club you must announce your arrival to pro shop staff. Visitors must use the QR code or give track and trace details. The shop staff will then inform you of the order of play in order to keep your group separated from the group in front and behind. You can enter the putting green when the group in front has vacated it to make their way to the 1st tee.

Face coverings must be worn by staff, golfers and visitors in all public indoor areas, this includes the pro shop and toilets.

The social separation distance of 2m applies. There should be no more than 3 customers in the pro shop at any one time, and they must remain at least 2m apart.

Golf trolleys may be hired but must not be shared. The far breeze block wall nearest the practice chipping green is the area for used trolleys and buggies to be returned to. A member of staff must then clean them and then move clean trolleys to the trolley park nearest to the 18th green. A member of staff must clean buggies and move them to the buggy compound or to the patio area in front of the pro shop.

Golf buggies are only for individuals - two members of the same household may share buggies, but if the family is not personally known by pro shop staff then both parties must bring proof of address (driving licence or utility bill) in advance of hire. There is a discount for two single buggies being hired in the same playing tee time.

It is understood that England Golf say that buggies may be shared if the users exercise caution, but we are afraid that this fails our own AVGC Risk Assessment given the recent rise in cases of the Indian variant. We do not see how two people sharing a buggy for four hours and climbing in and out of the seat can remain risk free. We will, however, re-assess this decision on 21st June 21, or earlier if the Indian variant comes under control.

Please use the one way system to the 1st tee, entering the putting green from the gap in the hedge.

There are two waiting areas, 25m apart, to keep groups separated that are waiting for the 1st tee, should they be required.

2. Playing Golf

KEEP YOUR SEPARATION DISTANCES AT ALL TIMES ON THE COURSE. The time for greatest focus on this is at the teeing grounds where golfers would naturally be closest together.

Keep social distancing when walking to the ball, searching for a ball and playing shots. Do not touch stray balls.

Bunker rakes have been removed. There is an individual rake head on sale in the shop at trade £7.50 that fits over any club and is your personal rake - not for sharing! Sand can be smoothed using feet or a club.

Do not touch the flags. Give gimmes within 12 inches for social golf. Use your putter to eject the ball from the hole with our Covid-19 disk system.

Ball washers and divot trowels have been removed. Stakes defining the course are now defined as immovable obstructions and should not be touched.

Benches are allowed back on the course once again. Please obey the signage and keep your social distance when sitting on the bench.

Course bins may be used but please do not touch the bins or their contents.

Please maintain your social distancing when on the putting green

There are hand sanitiser stations and washbasins at the clubhouse. We strongly recommend use of these before and after your round. There are further hand sanitisers for your use found in tree stumps on tees.

3. After the Round

You may now sit at our outside tables after the round. This includes our patio shelter area as the windows and doors have been removed and well over 50% of the side walls are open.

We have a 'red' 'green' system. Only sit at a 'green' table. As you sit down flip the block to 'red'. When you leave a member of staff will sanitise the table and flick the block to 'green'. This ensures that you only sit at a cleaned table.

We have table service only. Please take a seat and a member of staff will come to you. Please make cashless payments, or use your white membership cards, wherever possible - payments will be taken at the table. Please leave your empty glasses on the table and a member of staff will collect them.

Inside Tables.

Upstairs Clubroom

Those sitting inside the clubhouse can sit at tables of up to 6 people in the Upstairs Lounge.

Downstairs Inside Bar and Restaurant.

The tables in the downstairs bar are smaller so our own risk assessment safe number of people per table is just 4 people.

Patio Shelter.

a). Doors and Windows removed.

When the doors and windows are removed this area is easily over 50% open sided so the area is classed as 'outside'. However, tables of 4 is the logical layout as golf is played in groups of up to 4 people.

b). Windows and Doors fitted.

The doors and windows will be fitted in cold, windy weather. This area is then classed as 'Inside' and there must not be more than 6 people at any table. There will always be some doors and windows left open so that this area has excellent ventilation.

Outside tables.

We have chairs for up to 6 people to sit outside. The tables alongside the putting green are 'double tables' (2 tables pushed together) to give extra social distance.

Social separation still applies at all tables. Please keep your seat back from tables in order to maintain that separation distance. We will have an area of 'two person only' tables for those who prefer that extra safety measure. Please stay at your own table when 'inside'.

Face coverings must be worn 'inside' but may be removed when you have taken your seat. Cutlery and disposable condiments will be delivered to your table.

4. Driving Range

We can no longer use tokens and the ball machine as these failed the risk assessment. All balls must now be obtained from the shop. Old driving range tokens can still be used and should be dropped into a box in the shop.

You can buy a single bucket of 20 or 35 balls or buy a passport for 10 x 20 ball baskets or 10 x 35 ball baskets. Driving range bays are not too busy on midweek days but at weekends they can be booked in advance by phoning 01525 240196.

All baskets and balls in the shop have been cleaned already. Please do not touch anyone else's range balls, baskets, or collect any balls from the range itself.

Please use the bays that are nearest to the clubhouse first and move along towards the pros bay at the far end. Once players have reached the far end pro shop staff will disinfect the bay dividers. Enter a 'green' bay and turn the wooden block from green to red as you enter. If there are no further 'green' bays please alert pro shop staff.

There are outside grass bays available, all of which have 4m + separation distances.

Parties.

We regret to say that we are not currently holding parties. This includes weddings, birthday parties, Christenings and general functions. We will review this at a later date as the pandemic comes under control. Unfortunately we also cannot play background music or hold live events at this time.

5. Feeling Unwell.

Remember, if you feel unwell then please stay at home and avoid coming to the club. If you start to feel unwell during your round of golf please go straight home. If you feel you will cough or sneeze then please attempt to go outside or catch the sneeze / cough in a tissue or in your arm.

Thank you for your co-operation. We will send out fresh e-mails to members as restrictions gradually lift this year.