



## **POLICY ON THE USE OF GOLF BUGGIES**

### **1. Aim of Policy**

- 1.1 This Policy is the Buggy Use Policy referred to in the General Conditions and the Conditions of Competition for all Hertfordshire Golf events. It sets out the circumstances in which golf buggies may be used in events organised by Hertfordshire Golf.
- 1.2 Hertfordshire Golf wishes to encourage the participation in golf of all players regardless of disabilities. This Policy is in accordance with Hertfordshire Golf's obligations under the Equality Act October 2010.

### **2. Definitions**

- 2.1 "Disability" shall have the same meaning as section 6 of the Equality Act 2010. A person has a disability if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.
- 2.2 "Valid medical confirmation of disability" shall mean a valid medical certificate from a registered general practitioner or consultant registered with the Health Professionals Council that a player, caddie or spectator or other person seeking to use a golf buggy under this policy is suffering from a Disability.

### **3. Persons who may use a golf buggy**

- 3.1 It is a condition of any competition organised by Hertfordshire Golf that players must walk at all times during a stipulated round, unless permitted to use a golf buggy by the Championship Committee, in accordance with this policy. The penalty for a breach of this condition is the General Penalty for each hole at which there is a breach. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.
- 3.2 A golf buggy may be used by a player or caddie who can provide a valid current medical certificate of disability (as defined in 2.2 above) in accordance with this policy and has requested permission to use a golf buggy no fewer than 7 days prior to the first day of the event in which they wish to participate. Where the disability prevents the player from driving the buggy, he/she may nominate a third party to drive the buggy for them who must be approved by the Championship Committee in the event that permission is granted.  
Should the permission to use a buggy be granted only to the player's caddie, the player must walk at all times during the stipulated round in accordance with any Conditions of Competition.  
When permission to use a buggy is granted to the player, the player's caddie may also use the buggy.
- 3.3 A template Medical Certificate is available on request from the County Secretary.

- 3.4 Where a player is under the age of 18 years and has met the criteria in paragraph 3.2, above, the Championship Committee shall reserve the right to specify that the golf buggy is driven by another person of the Championship Committee's choice, in the event that a person having parental responsibility for the player is unable or not competent to do so.
- 3.5 In cases where the Championship Committee refuses to permit the use of a golf buggy then it shall inform the player of the decision, the reasons for it, and the right to appeal this refusal in accordance with this policy.
- 3.6 Any deviation from the conditions set out in this policy shall be entirely at the discretion of the Championship Committee.

#### **4. Conditions in which use of a golf buggy may be permitted**

- 4.1 Where a determination is made that the use of a buggy may be permitted, the Championship Committee shall have regard to the following additional health and safety considerations before granting approval:
- a) Any relevant weather conditions
  - b) The topography and ground conditions
  - c) The condition of and suitability of the golf buggy
  - d) The host venue's policy regarding the use of buggies and
  - e) Any other relevant considerations which could impede the safe use of a golf buggy or impact on the safety of others.
- 4.2 In the event that the Championship Committee believes that for reasons of health and safety a golf buggy should not be used at a particular event it may revoke all such permission and notify competitors accordingly.
- 4.3 It will in any event be a requirement of any player, caddie or other third party granted permission to use a buggy to complete and sign a Buggy Use Acknowledgement Form prior to use.

#### **5. Conditions for use of golf buggies**

- 5.1 A player, caddie or other third party permitted to use a golf buggy must agree to the following terms and conditions of use:
- a) Any person operating a golf buggy must do so with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of others and in accordance with any relevant golf buggy operating guidelines.
  - b) The Championship Committee may require that a golf buggy must not exceed walking pace.
  - c) A golf buggy shall be for the sole use of the player and their equipment (or any caddies or other third party who has been permitted to drive the golf buggy) unless the Championship Committee has deemed that for reason of age or disability a third party is required to drive the golf buggy.
  - d) A golf buggy must not impede or interfere with normal pedestrians or vehicular traffic flow on roadways, ramps and pavements.
  - e) A player who has been granted permission to use a golf buggy (or any caddie or other third party who has been permitted to drive the golf buggy) must remain seated in the golf buggy at all times while the vehicle is in motion.

- f) Drivers of golf buggies must comply with directional signs and not use prohibited areas including public highways and pavements.
  - g) A player who has been granted permission to use a golf buggy (or any caddie or other third party who has been permitted to drive the golf buggy) must accept responsibility for any losses or injury sustained as a result of his or her fault whilst using a golf buggy; and
  - h) A player who has been granted permission to use a golf buggy (or any caddie or other third person who has been permitted to drive the golf buggy) must have adequate personal and third-party insurance and must provide a copy of the certificate of insurance to Hertfordshire Golf prior to use.
- 5.2 Failure to agree to the terms and conditions contained in clause 5.1 by signing a Buggy Use Policy Consent Form may result in the player, caddie or other third party being denied permission to use a golf buggy.

## **6. Appeals Procedure**

- 6.1 Any decision by the Championship Committee refusing a player or caddie permission to use a golf buggy may be appealed by the player or caddie to the Championship Committee.
- 6.2 An appeal shall be made in writing to the Championship Committee within 5 working days of the date of the initial decision. Any written appeal request shall also include a statement by the player or caddie of the reasons why he/she is seeking to appeal the decision
- 6.3 The Championship Committee shall make a decision on an appeal and communicate it to the player or caddie within 10 working days of the initial appeal.

**January 2019**