

Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club - Adverse Weather Policy



1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety of members, visitors, staff and contractors during adverse weather conditions and to outline the procedures for suspending, postponing or cancelling play when necessary. The same rules will apply to anyone using the practice facilities.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All members, guests and visitors
- Staff and volunteers
- Competition and casual play participants
- Coaching sessions and club events
- Contractors working on site

3. Definition of Adverse Weather

Adverse weather may include, but is not limited to:

- Lightning and thunderstorms
- High winds
- Dense fog
- Heavy snow or ice
- Flooding
- Extreme cold or heat
- Any other condition deemed hazardous by Club Council

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Head Greenkeeper/General Manager/Assistant General Manager/Greens Committee/Match & Handicap Committee

- Ensure appropriate risk assessments are undertaken.
- Approve and review this policy annually.

4.2 Head Greenkeeper/General Manager/Assistant General Manager/Greens Committee

- Monitor weather conditions.
- Make decisions regarding course closure, the postponement of competitions or suspension of play.
- Ensure that staff, are trained in procedures.

4.3 Head Greenkeeper/General Manager/Assistant General Manager/Match & Handicap Committee/ Pro Shop

- Apply the Rules of Golf when suspending, postponing or abandoning competitions.
- The Head Greenkeeper and his staff will report to the General Manager or Assistant General Manager or Pro Shop staff where any adverse weather conditions may deem the course unplayable.
- Communication with participants will be via social media (Twitter/X), Facebook, BRS, the Club Website and/or by e-mail.

4.4 Members and Visitors

- Exercise personal judgement regarding safety.
- Comply immediately with suspension signals and instructions.

Adopted by the Club Council on Wednesday, 2nd September 2026

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5. Procedures by Weather Type

5.1 Lightning, Thunderstorms and Fog

Play must not commence or must be suspended:

- In the event of a DANGEROUS SITUATION (Lightning, Thunderstorms and Fog).
- Where Players cannot see landing areas clearly.
- Where there is risk of striking unseen players or staff.
- Suspension of play shall be signified by ONE LONG BLAST of the HORN play MUST stop immediately. Players should mark their ball and make their way to the clubhouse or nearest safe shelter and await further instructions.

After suspension, resumption of play shall be signified by TWO SHORT BLASTS OF THE HORN. During a lightning event where there is not sufficient time to evacuate the course and there is a threat to your safety, you are advised to observe the following advice:

- Do not shelter under trees or go to high ground.
- Keep as low as possible and ideally crouch down in the nearest bunker/hollow.
- Leave your golf equipment where it is and stand away from it.
- Do not use a mobile phone-make sure it is switched off.
- Do not put up an umbrella up in any circumstances.

Fog- In the event fog is present at the start of the day, and the first fairway is not visible, the course shall be closed to all play until the Greens staff have completed their standard course preparations and have notified the Pro Shop/starter that they are off the course. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the Professional and/or Professional Staff or any authorised member of the committee supervising the competition to decide if the course is playable.

5.2 High Winds, Excessive Rainfall, Lack of Daylight

Play may be suspended or a competition may be postponed or cancelled:

- In the event of a DANGEROUS SITUATION where the winds are so high that the players may be at risk of being blown over and injured, play may be suspended or postponed on the judgement of any of the head greenkeeper, general manager or assistant general manager or the pro shop staff.
- In the event of a NON-DANGEROUS SITUATION causing the course to become unplayable for reasons such as lack of daylight, excessive rainfall, flooding of the fairways and/or greens and high winds to the extent a ball is moving and can't be replaced on the spot from which it was blown. The suspension of play shall be signified by ONE SHORT BLAST of the HORN. The player MAY complete the hole already started and make their way immediately to the clubhouse and await further instructions.
- Where trees are at risk of falling.
- Where loose debris presents danger.
- Standing water creates slip hazards and/or the course infrastructure is compromised.

After suspension, resumption of play shall be signified by TWO SHORT BLASTS of the HORN.

When play is to be resumed following a suspension, players will resume play from where they stopped.

5.3 Snow and Ice

The course may be closed where:

- Surfaces are frozen and risk injury.
- Frost conditions may cause course damage.

Temporary greens or tees may be introduced at the discretion of the Head Greenkeeper.

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6. Communication

Decisions regarding suspension or closure can be communicated by any of the following via:

- Klaxon/air horn signals
- Professional shop notifications
- Club website and/or booking system
- Social media channels – Twitter/X and/or Facebook

Clear signage will be displayed where appropriate. It should be noted the horn shall only be sounded when the Pro Shop is attended. If the horn is not sounded during a competition and a player believes there is a real danger by proceeding, the player is entitled to discontinue play.

7. Competitions

In the event of suspension, postponement or abandonment:

- The Head Greenkeeper/General Manager/Assistant General Manager/Greens Committee and Match & Handicap Committee will apply the Rules of Golf and any applicable Model Local Rules.
- Decisions regarding results, refunds or rescheduling will be communicated as soon as practicable.

8. Record Keeping

All course closures or suspensions/postponements due to adverse weather will be recorded, including:

- Date and time
- Weather condition
- Decision taken
- Responsible person/s

9. Training and Review

- Staff will be briefed annually on adverse weather procedures.
- This policy will be reviewed annually or following any significant incident.

10. Personal Responsibility Disclaimer

While the Club will take reasonable steps to manage weather-related risks, all individuals remain responsible for their own safety and must exercise personal judgement in changing conditions. A decision to carry on playing during adverse weather conditions contrary to the above advice is normally left to the discretion of the player who MUST accept full responsibility for his/her safety and others affected by their actions.

If the course has not been officially closed this does not mean that it is necessarily safe to continue play and players must decide for themselves whether they consider it is safe to do so.