

BROOMIEKNOWE GOLF CLUB

ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY (MEMBERS)

Policy Summary:	This document sets out Broomieknowe Golf Club's Wet Weather Policy for Members.
Policy Owner:	Council, Broomieknowe Golf Club.
Approved by:	Council, Broomieknowe Golf Club; 01.09.2023
Date of Issue:	01.09.24
Review Period:	Annual or as required by Legislation.

Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction	3
2.0	Possible reasons for course closure	3
3.0	Course Closed, Play Suspended or Competition Abandoned	3
4.0	Player responsibility	4
5.0	Course closed / temporary suspension of play	4
Appendix	Players procedures under the rules	5

Broomieknowe Golf Club: Adverse Weather Policy (Members)

1.0 Introduction

This document is a guide for players to follow in the event, or likely event, of a course closure due to inclement conditions. The policy will allow golfers to follow procedures in line with the rules of golf and, more importantly, to follow protocol that keeps golfers as safe as possible.

The course may only be closed by authorised Club Personnel.

The Head Greenkeeper has the principal authority to close and re-open the course. In the absence of the Head Greenkeeper, the authority is delegated to his Deputy or the Club Professional. When neither the Head Greenkeeper, his Deputy nor the Club Professional is available, the action may be authorised by the Greens Convener, Captain / Vice Captain, Director or other greens staff.

2.0 Possible Reasons for Course Closure:

- Lightning;
- Poor visibility due, for example, to fog;
- Flooding;
- Storm conditions and high winds;
- Frost and snow;
- Damage to or hazard on the course from, for example, ground conditions or fallen trees.

3.0 Course Closed, Play Suspended or Competition Abandoned

Course closure for general play shall be notified by the Head Greenkeeper or their Deputy as early in the morning as possible following a course inspection. Notification will be via ClubV1.

For competition golf, when the fair playing of the game is deemed impossible due to inclement weather, under Rule 5.7 there are two types of suspension of play available to authorised personnel. The first is to abandon the competition and close the course, the second is to suspend the competition and declare a temporary suspension to play. Unless a player knows for a fact that the competition is being abandoned, then they should assume play is being stopped for a temporary suspension.

Under rule 5.7a, a player is allowed to stop play if they reasonably believe there is danger from lightning. If the belief is reasonable, the player is the final judge. Under rule 5.7b, if an authorised individual declares an immediate suspension of play, all players must stop play at once. Under rule 5.7c, if an authorised individual orders play to resume, all players must resume play. If a player refuses to continue play, the authorised individual may conclude that the player's belief is unreasonable and they may be disqualified.

4.0 Player Responsibility

When no authorised individuals are available, players must use their own judgement as to whether or not the course is safe to play and it is possible to play fairly and within the rules. If players decide to stop play, then they should assume that this is a temporary suspension.

If players deem the course to be unplayable, photographic evidence of the course showing the adverse conditions should be acquired and submitted to an authorised individual as soon as possible.

Players may stop play when they believe there is a danger from lightning (see Rule 5.7a). With regard to poor visibility due to fog or poor light, it is recommended that if landing areas are not visible to players, play should be suspended. Similarly, if players are unable to read the line of play on a putting green due to a lack of visibility, play should be suspended. If all the area around a hole is flooded and water cannot be removed, conditions may be such that proper playing of the game is impossible, then in stroke play the course should be considered unplayable and authorised individual should suspend play under Rule 5.7. In matchplay, if water cannot be removed, the authorised individual may suspend play or relocate the hole. Note that relief may be taken from standing water on the green if the players ball is on the green under rule 16.1d.

In all cases players should make themselves familiar with rule 5.7.

5.0 Course Closed and / or Temporary Suspension of Play

The priority is to make sure that all golfers are advised of the decision to either close the course for the day, or to suspend play temporarily. Regardless of the decision, if there is a Health and Safety risk, it is vital that golfers leave the course immediately. The communication to stop play will be made by use of an air horn, by verbal communication to the golfers on the course or by updating the Club V1 app and club website. Golfers should keep updated with these platforms via mobile phone for the latest information when there is potential for course closure.

In the event of a temporary suspension, golfers will be advised of the time of the next course inspection. As each occasion will be unique to the conditions at that particular time, it is not possible to make a set ruling on this procedure within this document.

The decision on whether abandoned competitions will be rescheduled for another date, will be communicated to members as soon as possible. As a guide the following is most likely:

- Midweek medals that are abandoned will not be replayed;
- Weekend competitions may be rescheduled where possible or may be combined with another competition at a later date;
- For opens and major competitions, the Club would endeavour to reschedule.

Scores returned from an abandoned competition will be entered into a player's WHS handicap record as usual, with Net Par and Net Double Bogey adjustments being made to the gross score as required.

Appendix: Players Procedures Under the Rules.

Immediate Suspension of Play.

NOTIFIED BY ONE CONTINUOUS SOUND OF THE AIR HORN.

If the authorised individual declares an immediate suspension of play, then players must stop play **immediately** and must not make another stroke until resumption of play is notified.

Normal Suspension such as for darkness or an unplayable Course.

NOTIFIED BY THREE SHORT SOUNDS OF THE AIR HORN.

If play is suspended for normal reasons, what happens next depends on where each playing group is.

- **Between Two Holes.** If all players in the group are between two holes, they **must stop play** and must not make a stroke to begin another hole until the authorised individual resumes play.
- **While Playing Hole.** If any player in the group has started a hole, the players may choose either to stop play or to play out the hole. If stopping during play of a hole, then the players must mark their ball before lifting it. The players are allowed a brief amount of time (normally no more than two minutes) to decide whether to stop or play out the hole. If the players continue play of the hole, they may go on to complete the hole or may stop before completing the hole.
- Once the players complete the hole or stop before completing the hole, they must not make another stroke until play is resumed under Rule 5.7c.
- If the players do not agree on what to do: in Match Play, if the opponent stops play, the player must also stop play and both players must not play again until play resumes. If the player does not stop play, the player is awarded the general penalty of loss of hole. In stroke play, any player in the group may choose to stop play or go on to continue the hole, no matter what the others in the group decide to do. That player may continue play only if their marker stays to keep the player's score.

Penalty for Breach of Rule 5.7b is disqualification. There is however an exception and there is no penalty if the authorised individual decides that failure to stop was justified.

When Play Resumes (Rule 5.7c).

- A player must resume play from where he or she stopped play on a hole or, if between two holes, at the next teeing area, even if play is resumed on a later day.
- When play is resumed, the player must be present at the location identified above and be ready to play at the time set by the authorised individual for play to resume, and not before.
- If the ability to resume play is delayed for any reason such as when players in the group ahead need to play first and move out of the way, there is no breach of this Rule if the player is present and ready to play when the group can resume play.

Penalty for Breach of Rule 5.7c is disqualification. The health and safety of golfers, protection of the golf course, and allowing play to be completed fairly and within the rules

of golf, are paramount to any decisions made. Whilst it is understood that not everyone will agree with those decisions, note that verbal or physical abuse and threats towards staff / council / members will not be tolerated under ANY circumstances.