

## Winter Course Protection Measures

As we come into the winter months, it's the time of year where we look to start protecting the West Links. This report will outline some of the proposed protection measures we aim to take.

### Winter Course Set-Up

From the 4th of November, we will adjust the length of the course to protect the main areas of play used on tees during the playing season. For example, the 5<sup>th</sup> Blue tees will be moved forward by approx. 30 yards to utilise the middle area of the tee.



*Figure 1: Aerial of the 5<sup>th</sup> tee where the current area for the Blue Tees (Yellow lines) and the proposed winter tee area where further up the tee (Blue lines)*

Winter tees and astroturf mats on par 3's will also be utilised. An astroturf mat will be used on the

- 4<sup>th</sup> tee.
- the existing winter tee on the 6<sup>th</sup>, to the right of the 5<sup>th</sup> green or behind the 5<sup>th</sup> green.
- the existing winter tee on the 10<sup>th</sup> behind the 9<sup>th</sup> green.
- 15<sup>th</sup> tee.

The approx. yardage deficit for each hole is described below:

1. 26 forward (near front of main season tee)
2. 10 forward (near front of main season tee)
3. 14 forward (near front of main season tee)
4. Astroturf Mat on 4<sup>th</sup> tee
5. 30 forward (near front of main season tee)
6. Astroturf Mat on Winter tee or behind 5<sup>th</sup> Green
7. 20 forward (near front of main season tee)
8. 20 forward (forward tee behind ladies tee)
9. 20 forward (near front of main season tee)
10. Astroturf Mat on Winter Tee
11. 40 forward (Front bottom tee utilized) Reds on same tee
12. 15 forward (near front of main season tee)
13. 20 forward (near front of main season tee)
14. Winter tee (no change in yardage)
15. Astroturf Mat on 15<sup>th</sup> tee
16. 15 forward (near front of main season tee)
17. 15 forward (bottom tee utilized)
18. no change in yardage

The total yardage deficit will be less than **250 yards**.

The winter flags will also go out on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. These flags (pictured below) are perforated so will not get damaged as easily as the other flags during the high wind/storms that we can get during the winter.



*Figure 2: These flags (front 9- white, back 9 - red) will be put out during winter months.*

The White tee markers will be removed during this period and play will only be allowed from the Blue and Red markers to allow these areas to recover for the start of the 2025 season.

The hole rotation will continue but holes will be changed once per week.

### Fairway Mats

To protect the fairway from excessive wear and tear during the coldest winter months when there will be no recovery/seed germination, play from fairways mats will be compulsory from the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. Play from mats will be required on fairway and approaches and not required from tees or semi-rough/rough. A mat is not required if using a putter from the fairway or approach.

Fairway mats should be collected from the Starters Lodge before the start of play and dropped off either at the starters or in a collection bucket at the clubhouse on completion.

## Roped Off Areas.

We will rope-off areas of “worn” rough that we want to try and encourage growth and recovery in. Playing from these areas is allowed but we would ask that golfers do not walk/use trolleys in these areas so that the reestablishment of the grass is not hindered. Below is an example of some of the areas we plan to rope off. We hope that by implementing these measures, we can add more definition to certain areas that are currently quite open and bland, which will create more of a feature at these holes.



*Figure 3: An example of an area that will be roped off at the 13<sup>th</sup> tees.*

We will also be placing hoops in various pinch points around the course to deter golfers from walking/pushing trolleys through these weak areas. We kindly ask that all golfers adhere to the positioning of these hoops and use an alternative route.

## Ground Under Repair

Any areas that are Ground Under Repair (GUR) will either be white lined with paint, roped off with white rope or covered with a germination sheet. These areas are strictly no play zones and care must be taken when retrieving balls from these areas. It will be at the Course Managers discretion when these areas will be reinstated once repaired. Golfers will be able to take a drop at the nearest point of relief.

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