



## **Oxley Park Golf Club Buggy Policy 2025**

### **Contents**

1. Introduction and background
2. Qualifications and criteria for buggy use
3. Course topography considerations and risk assessments.
4. Golf buggy safety policy
5. Conditions of use
6. Golf Buggy safe working practice
7. Privately owned buggies
8. Golf Buggy safety policy Acknowledgement form (Able / Disabled) - Storage

### **1. Introduction and Background**

Oxley Park Golf Club has a duty of care to all users of the golf course. Due to disability, some members, visitors and guests may not be able to play golf without the assistance provided by a motorised ride-on buggy whilst others may simply prefer the option to drive around the course instead of walking. This policy has been introduced to ensure compliance with both equality and Health and safety legislation.

The purpose of this document is to establish a standard for the safe operation of all ride-on buggies authorised and operated within the confines at Oxley Park Golf Club (OPGC). The document also sets down the criteria to be applied and conditions to be met when OPGC considers applications for buggy use both hired and personally owned.

The topography of the OPGC is unique; you are requested to take note of Course Topography considerations and possible restrictions thereof referred later in this document.

From time-to-time Oxley Park Golf Club may determine that the state of the course or the weather is such that safety on or the condition of the course may be unacceptably compromised if a buggy is used. OPGC reserves the right to ban the use of buggies by able-

bodied members, visitors and guests when course conditions are unsuitable for the use of a buggy.

This might apply to the whole or just parts of the course. Potentially unsuitable conditions including waterlogging, surface water, ground conditions, frost etc. Where such conditions exist, the club will review the situation on a daily basis.

Members, visitors and guests who suffer from a disability within the meaning of Section 6 of The Equality Act 2010 (if you have a physical or mental impairment, that impairment has a substantial and long term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day –to-day activities) may use a buggy subject to any restrictions imposed over access to unsafe areas of the course.

The club also reserves the right to withdraw authorisation if the medical condition or disability necessitating the use of a buggy ceases, or, the conditions for its use are not fully complied with.

## **2.0 Qualifications and criteria Buggy Use**

OPGC welcomes the use of motorised golf buggies on the course subject to certain restrictions such a weather / ground conditions and health and safety considerations. Oxley Park GC will operate a traffic light system (Green, Amber and Red) detailed within this document.

Use of a ride–on buggy in competitions is permitted as the Competitions Committee do not feel that the use of a buggy provides any unfair advantage over other golfers not using a buggy.

Any person who operates a ride-on buggy on the golf course is deemed by so doing, to have the knowledge, training and skill to safely operate this vehicle and be fully accountable for their actions and the consequences thereof. The safe operation of ride on buggies on the course requires conscientious application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by the policy.

Ride-on buggies must be operated in accordance with the requirements of the following documents:

- Golf Buggy Safety Policy
- Golf Buggy Safe Working Practice
- Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form

In order that these conditions can in practice be met, the OPGC Board / Honorary Secretary or their approved nominee must whenever possible be given prior notice of a requirement by a member, visitor or guest to use a ride-on buggy. The Club reserves the right to refuse permission if some or all of the conditions stipulated are not complied with.

From time-to-time OPGC may determine that the state of the course or the weather is such that safety on or the condition of the course may be unacceptably compromised if a ride-on buggy is used. This might apply to the whole or just part of the course. Potentially unsuitable conditions include waterlogging, frost, snow and reduced visibility. Where such conditions arise OPGC will review the situation on a daily basis.

Determining any such restrictions on buggy use will be the responsibility of the following:

- Course Manager and Staff
- Club Professional and his team
- Greens Chair or Health & Safety lead

### **3. Course topography considerations and risk assessment.**

Due to the historic layout and ground type of Oxley Park Golf Club, some holes could be deemed hazardous to motorised buggies. Particular consideration has, and continues, to be given to the potentially hazardous nature of the following sections of the course. Also see section 6 golf buggy safe working practice.

#### **GREEN**

- 6<sup>th</sup>: Care to be taken when approaching & passing the pond (in front of tee box)
- 8<sup>th</sup>: Care to be taken when approaching & passing the pond (right hand side of fairway)
- 9<sup>th</sup>: Care to be taken when approaching & passing the pond (left hand side of approach)
- 10<sup>th</sup>: Care to be taken when approaching & passing the pond (in front of tee box)
- 11<sup>th</sup>: Care to be taken when approaching the undulations at the start of the fairway
- 12<sup>th</sup>: Care to be taken when approaching the undulations to the right-hand side of the green
- 15<sup>th</sup>: Care to be taken when approaching & passing the pond (left hand side of the green)
- 16<sup>th</sup>: Care to be taken when approaching & passing the pond (in front of tee box)
- 17<sup>th</sup>: 16<sup>th</sup>: Care to be taken when approaching the grass mound (20yds short of the green)
- 18<sup>th</sup>: 16<sup>th</sup>: Care to be taken when approaching the fairway bunkers / ridge (75yds short of the green)

**\*\*All buggies must stay clear of all greenside undulations / bunkers, teeing areas and sloped surrounds\*\***

Any implementation of the traffic light system will be the responsibility of the Course Manager, Club Professional team, Chairman of Greens and or Health & Safety lead.

## **AMBER**

For clarity, and in the interests of Health and Safety, when the amber or red is operational, only members or visitors who can produce evidence to prove that, due to medical reasons, without the use of a buggy, they will not be able to play golf can have access to the course.

The greens team will review the situation on a daily basis and update the website, course line and Club v1 app. If in doubt as to the ground conditions, please refer to the white external notice board or shop before removing your buggy.

Where such restrictions are in place, only the following exceptions will apply and anyone who complies with these requirements will be able to use a buggy across the course.

- They are suffering from a disability within the meaning of Section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or any statutory modification thereof.
- Anyone who is unable to play golf, for medical reasons, without the use of a buggy must provide an up to date signed doctors statement detailing this or alternatively present a copy of their 'blue badge', copies of both will be filled in the office and will need to be produced on an annual basis, unless for long term conditions.

The following hole by hole risk assessment has been completed for all buggy users during wet ground conditions and need to be taken into consideration. During wet ground conditions the entire course should be driven with caution in particular the areas listed below. Also see section 6, golf buggy safe working practice.

1<sup>st</sup> – Please use all paths provided & walk to your ball due to wet ground conditions on the fairway (90 degree rule)

2<sup>nd</sup> – Short left of the green can be prone to waterlogging

4<sup>th</sup> – Right hand side of the rough & fairway can be prone to waterlogging

7<sup>th</sup> – Right hand side of fairway & green can become extremely wet.

8<sup>th</sup> – The second part of the fairway and the area of fairway leading into the approach to the green can become very wet, please use paths provided.

9<sup>th</sup> – Fairway and approach can become extremely wet, so please use the paths provided

- 11<sup>th</sup> – Fairway and approach can become extremely wet so please ensure you cross over to the right-hand side/ treeline before you reach the start of the fairway
- 12<sup>th</sup> – The whole of the right-hand side of the green is prone to waterlogging and all Buggies should remain to the left-hand side of the hole.
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Approach and left hand side of the green can become extremely wet so please ensure all buggies are kept to the left hand side of the fairway
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Area just passed the pond is prone to waterlogging, please ensure all buggies are kept to the left hand side of the hole.
- 17<sup>th</sup> – The approach / grass undulation can become very wet, please keep all buggies to the left hand side of the hole when heading for the 18<sup>th</sup> tee.
- 18<sup>th</sup> – The fairway & undulation located across the hole are prone to waterlogging, please ensure all buggies utilise the paths provided.

**\*\*All buggies must stay clear of all greenside undulations / bunkers, teeing areas and sloped surrounds\*\***

## **RED**

During or after severe weather conditions a **RED** level buggy policy may be in operation. This is because the whole course conditions are deemed to be a health and safety issue and members and staff could be at risk.

In this instance buggies will be allowed to be used to play 4 holes only on the course – 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Buggies must stay on the paths at all times, with players walking to their ball on the fairway. When leaving the 1<sup>st</sup> Green, please take into consideration any golfers approaching from the 7<sup>th</sup> green when approaching the 8<sup>th</sup> tee. Players should alternate with players approaching the 7<sup>th</sup> green as per normal playing conditions, this process will mirror when moving from the 9<sup>th</sup> green to the 18<sup>th</sup> tee, please take into consideration any golfers approaching from the 17<sup>th</sup> green and alternate accordingly.

It is the intention of Management committee & Greens staff to continually review the above risk assessments and make improvements where possible to enable more holes to be played during wet conditions.

## **4. Golf Buggy Safety Policy**

The Club has a duty of care to all users of the golf course. It is also necessary for the Club to provide adequately safe means of access for all golfers including those given permission to use buggies. Moreover, the Club has to ensure the safety of golfers who do not wish to use ride-on buggies but who might be at risk from a mechanically defective ride-on buggy or its careless use.

To assist the safe employment of ride-on buggies all potential users (members, visitors and guests) shall comply with the following conditions:

1. Ride on buggies may be used by able-bodied members, visitors and guests who have obtained the relevant permission from Oxley Park Golf Club and have signed the Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement form.
2. Ride-on buggies must be operated with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of pedestrians. Pedestrians must be afforded the right-of-way at all times.
3. The instructions employed to warn buggy riders of potential danger areas or, areas forbidden to ride-on buggies because of concerns about danger or, the potential to cause unacceptable wear and tear to the course, must be followed at all times.
4. Ride-on buggies must be operated and parked in such a manner that they do not impede or interfere with normal pedestrian or vehicular flow on roadways, outside the Pro Shop or paths around the course.
5. Ride-on buggy operators will be responsible for the security of ignition keys for the period that the buggy is on the property owned by the OPGC.
6. OPGC has no responsibility for ensuring the safe operation of ride-on buggies on or beyond the confines of the course and the club car-parks other than those operated by their servants or agents. The Club will accept no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to any property other than that arising from the negligent use of a ride-on buggy by their servants or agents.
7. No ride-on buggy will be operated in excess of 15km per hour. All speed limits must be observed.
8. Ride-on buggies shall be used only between dawn and dusk.

9. Ride-on buggies must be operated in compliance with the common` rules of the Road regardless of whether ride-on buggies are operated on pavements or Roadways.
10. Operators must stop the buggy at blind intersections and proceed with caution.
11. The consumption of alcohol and/or the improper use of drugs are not permitted when Driving a buggy.
12. The OPGC Management Committee, Honorary Secretary/Pro shop has the authority to immediately prohibit any individual from using or being carried on a Buggy. Application for reinstatement of permission can only be made to the Honorary Secretary.
13. There must be in force an appropriate policy of insurance for the use of the buggy. Such policy indemnifying OPGC Club against any liability for its use.

## **5. Conditions of Use**

To ensure the safe use of buggies, all users are required to comply with the following conditions:

1. Buggies may only be used by those authorised by OPGC.
2. If a partial buggy ban is in operation, members will be updated via the course line or Clubv1 app. Upon arriving at the club, those with members that qualify under Section 6 of the equality act must prior to removing the buggy from storage check the status of the course with the Pro shop to confirm which holes, if any are open and what routes are in operation.
3. Buggies must be operated with the utmost common sense, courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of pedestrians. Pedestrians must be afforded the right -of- way at all times.
4. Users will be responsible for the security of ignition keys for the period that the buggy is in their care and on club property.
5. Any signs used to warn buggy drivers of potential danger, instructions given or areas in which buggies must not be used must be complied with at all times.

OPGC has no responsibility for ensuring the safe operation of buggies on or beyond the confines of the course and on the Club carpark other than those by their servants or agents. The club will accept no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to any property other than arising from the negligent use of a buggy by their servants or agents.

## **6. Golf Buggy Safe working practice**

### **Before Use**

1. All users must sign a Safety Policy Acknowledgement form (Below) before they are allowed to drive a buggy at Oxley Park Golf Club. Members with their own buggy can sign once per year or at a point when any of the Safety Policy is amended.
2. All users must ensure that they are familiar with the buggy controls and the constraints on buggy use.

### **During Use**

1. A buggy shall only be used for the number of occupants it was designed to carry and only by those authorised to do so by Oxley Park Golf Club
2. Under no circumstances should the buggy be removed from Oxley Park Golf Club course or main car park, unless it is the private property of that individual.
3. Buggy users should be satisfied that the buggy is well maintained and fully serviceable before use.
4. Drivers should not move off until the occupants are seated.
5. Always remain seated with hands, feet and head kept inside the buggy at all times while the buggy is in motion.
6. Do not drive buggies in prohibited areas if restrictions are in place.
7. Use the buggy to progress the game by driving in the direction of play.
8. Keep the buggy on pathways and closely mown grass / rough where possible.
9. Drivers must not drive the buggy in tight circles even when looking for balls.
10. Do not use the buggy on tees, greens or the slopes leading up to them.
11. Do not use the buggy within 5 metres of any bunker, ditches or slopes leading to them and within 10mtrs of the green service.
12. Drivers should check the area behind the buggy before reversing.

13. Apply the parking brake before leaving the buggy.
14. Always consider the terrain, existing vehicular and pedestrian traffic as well as environmental factors that may affect the user's ability to operate the buggy safely.
15. Drive the buggy only as fast as the terrain and safety considerations allow & directly up and down sharp slopes to avoid the risk of it tipping over.
16. Slow down before cornering & execute all turns at reduced speeds.
17. Avoid sudden stops or changes of direction to prevent loss of control or damage to grass.
18. Take extra care in strong winds or when the course is wet or frosted.
19. If ropes have been placed around greens, please maintain a safe distance from them.

## **After Use**

1. After use a hired buggy should be parked outside the Pro Shop or placed back into its designated storage slot (please confirm with Pro Shop), with the parking brake engaged & the operating key returned to the Pro shop where applicable.

## **7.0 Privately owned buggies**

Oxley Park GC welcomes the use of privately owned buggies by members, guest and visitors subject to the terms and conditions of use & buggy safety policy. It is the responsibility of the owner / user of such a buggy to ensure that the buggy is safe and fit for purpose and that the appropriate conditions for use have been met. This includes privately owned buggies being covered with their own insurance, with the relevant certification being provided to the club office.

Oxley Park GC has limited facilities for storage of privately owned buggies which is allocated on a first come basis. A waiting list is in operation for available spaces and is monitored by the Office Staff.

Permission to store a buggy at Oxley Park GC is at the discretion of the Management committee and subject to an annual levy for petrol and electric buggies. The levy does not cover any insurance or imply any liability for the security of a stored buggy.

Owners should arrange their own comprehensive insurance policy to cover personal injury, 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability, fire & theft.

Supporting documentation for the personal buggy should be basis at the point when annual



use of and or storage of a presented to OPGC on an annual subscriptions are renewable.

In any event, permission to store a on a case-by-case basis.

buggy will be reviewed annually

Members currently making use of the storage facilities will have first opportunity to renew up to the end of the current subscription date. After which spaces will be re-allocated on a first come basis.

Where a privately owned buggy is transported to OPGC rather than being stored at the club premises, users should park their trailer or other vehicle utilised for transporting the buggy in a way so as not to create a hazard or inconvenience to other users of the car park.

## Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form

(Able-bodied players)

All golfers must complete this form prior to operating a Golf Buggy ("Buggy")

Any person/s who accepts the privilege of operating a buggy at Oxley Park Golf Club are required in so doing, to have the knowledge, training and skill to safely operate the buggy safely and shall be fully accountable for their actions and consequences thereof.

The safe operation of buggies requires responsible application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by this policy.

**Name of User:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Membership number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below I acknowledge that:

- I have read and understood Oxley Park Golf Club's Buggy Safe Working Practice
- I am competent to drive a golf buggy.
- I understand the terms and conditions of Oxley Park Golf Club's Golf Buggy Safety Policy
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions related to this Policy and Procedure
- I am aware of the areas where I am unable to take a ride-on buggy
- I will ensure that the buggy will be maintained and operated in accordance with Oxley Park Golf Club's Golf Buggy Safety Policy
- I confirm that I have and have lodged with the Honorary Secretary/ Administration Manager a copy of my valid insurance policy to cover liability for risks to third parties. I also confirm that I have a current and valid driving license.
- I agree to indemnify Oxley Park Golf Club against all claims costs and demands made against Oxley Park Golf Club arising out of or in connection with the use of the golf buggy.

Driving License Checked.....  
checked.....



Insurance

documents

Users of golf buggies do so at their own risk. Oxley Park Golf club will not accept any liability for any loss or damage to the golf buggy or any other property arising from the negligence of the club or any of its servants or agents

Signature of User.....

Date.....

Signature of Secretary/Admin Manager.....

Date.....

## Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form (Medically Exempt players)

All golfers must complete this form prior to operating a Golf Buggy ("Buggy")

Any person/s who accepts the privilege of operating a buggy at Oxley Park Golf Club are required in so doing, to have the knowledge, training and skill to safely operate the buggy safely and shall be fully accountable for their actions and consequences thereof.

The safe operation of buggies requires responsible application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by this policy.

Name of User:\_\_\_\_\_ Membership number\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

By signing below I acknowledge that:

- I have read and understood Oxley Park Golf Club's Buggy Safe Working Practice
- I am competent to drive a golf buggy.
- I understand the terms and conditions of Oxley Park Golf Club's Golf Buggy Safety Policy
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions related to this Policy and Procedure
- I am aware of the areas where I am unable to take a ride-on buggy
- I will ensure that the buggy will be maintained and operated in accordance with Oxley Park Golf Club's Golf Buggy Safety Policy
- I confirm that I have and have lodged with the Honorary Secretary/ Administration Manager a copy of my valid insurance policy to cover liability for risks to third parties. I also confirm that I have a current and valid driving license.
- I agree to indemnify Oxley Park Golf Club against all claims costs and demands made against Oxley Park Golf Club arising out of or in connection with the use of the golf buggy.

Driving License Checked..... Insurance documents checked.....

Blue Badge Number..... Doctors letter.....

**Users of golf buggies do so at their own risk. Oxley Park Golf club will not accept any liability for any loss or damage to the golf buggy or any other property arising from the negligence of the club or any of its servants or agents**

Signature of User.....

Date.....

Signature of Secretary/ Admin. Manager.....

Date.....