



POLICY FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER and SUSPENSION OF PLAY

The aim of this Policy is to have procedures in place to cope with inclement weather and other situations where play may need to be halted during competitions. This is clearly required so that players and those involved in running a competition (this includes members of the Golf Club's staff) are able to recognise the signal that means play has been suspended. The situation where players do not know whether play has been suspended or not, or some players know and others don't should be avoided. For the purposes of this policy it is assumed that the "person responsible for the competition" is the Chairman of Sports (or his committee).

It is possible that Committee Members may be playing in a competition when conditions start to deteriorate so early information communicated by them from on the golf course may assist the Chairman of Sports in making any decision. Our hand held klaxon is stored in the Professionals shop

SUSPENSION OF PLAY

Players have a duty to protect themselves in Health and Safety matters especially should there be a danger from lightning when play must stop immediately. Rule 5.7b of the Rules of Golf makes it quite clear that a player is entitled to discontinue play if the player believes there is a danger from lightning.

All players **must** adhere to the following Suspension of Play procedures:

Dangerous Circumstances

A suspension of play for a dangerous situation (e.g. lightning) will be signalled by **one prolonged single blast on the klaxon and a notification sent out by electronic means to competitors phones**. During a Competition the Golf Professional will be on duty and it will be their responsibility (having gathered any information deemed necessary) to make the decision to have the klaxon sounded. However, even if the klaxon is not sounded and the players believe there is a real risk of, or danger from, lightning then the player is entitled to proceed under the provision of Rule 5.7b and discontinue play.

If the klaxon has been sounded, then a player is not entitled to override that decision and continue play. When the klaxon has been sounded for play to be suspended, players must discontinue play immediately. Every effort will be made to ensure the warning is sounded with sufficient time to allow for all competitors, caddies and spectators to evacuate the course prior to an electric storm striking the course.

Upon the signal being given, all players, must comply with these conditions.

PENALTY for breach of this condition is **DISQUALIFICATION**.

As soon as the players have returned to the clubhouse it is vital to keep them informed of what is happening. It will be the responsibility of the person responsible for the competition to inform the players that the situation will be reviewed and as soon as the lightning has dispersed (as a general rule of thumb if there has been no thunder and lightning after a period of 30 minutes) play will be allowed to continue. If the storm is continuous the situation will be reviewed every (30) minutes up to a maximum period of one hour.

After one hours delay and with no improvement in the situation the person responsible for the competition should declare the competition abandoned and the players notified accordingly. Those players who have not completed their round will be considered as having not entered the competition and their cards will not be classed as "No returns" (NR's). If more than half the scheduled field has completed a full round then the competition will stand; failing that it will be



recorded as abandoned in full. Players will be entitled to a full refund of the entry money, sweepstake and 2's entries.

Although we should endeavour not to suspend play unless absolutely necessary, it is the responsibility of the Golf Club's Management to do everything possible to protect players from lightning and, therefore care must be taken in this respect to give early warning.

Non-Dangerous circumstances

A competition should not generally be suspended simply on account of rain, unless the rain is so heavy that it would be unfair to require players to continue. Generally, play should only be suspended when the course has become unplayable. For example, balls are moving frequently on the putting greens due to wind or holes are full of, or **TOTALLY** surrounded by casual water. (See Rule 16.1d for full clarification) In any event, if rain is of sufficient intensity to present an unfair condition, normally it would take little time for casual water to accumulate around the hole on at least one putting green. When this occurs, it would be remiss of the person responsible for the competition if he/she did not consider the course unplayable and suspend play. Accordingly, play cannot be resumed until the casual water problem is resolved.

Having taken everything into consideration the next action is to suspend play and call all players off the course. This will be signalled by the klaxon being sounded with **one prolonged single blast and a notification sent out by electronic means to competitor's phones**. If the klaxon has been sounded,

- **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 Committee 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.
 - The players are allowed a brief amount of time (which normally should be no more than two minutes) to decide whether to stop play 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 the Committee resumes play.

Upon the signal being given, all players, must comply with these conditions.

PENALTY for breach of this condition is **DISQUALIFICATION**.

Again, as with a dangerous situation, as soon as the players have returned to the clubhouse it is vital to keep them informed of what is happening. The person responsible for the competition will be expected to inform the players that the situation will be reviewed as soon as the rain has eased. The whole of the course should be inspected to ensure that the casual water which has accumulated around the holes on the green(s) has dispersed and if so play will be allowed to continue. If the storm is continuous the situation will be reviewed every (30) minutes up to a maximum period of one hour.

After a period of one hours delay and with no improvement in the situation, the person responsible for the competition should declare the competition abandoned and the players notified accordingly. Those players who have not completed their round will be recorded as having not entered the competition and their cards will not be classed as "No returns" (NR's). ***If more than half the scheduled field has completed a full round then the competition will stand***; failing that it will be declared as abandoned and all scores will be null and void. Players will be entitled to a full refund of the entry money, sweepstake and 2's entries (usually by way of a credit to their Member's Account).



Fog

Should play need to be suspended due to fog then the same procedure will be followed as for lightning.

It is considered that play is only safe when the 150 yard board can be clearly seen from the driving range bays. When the 150 yard board can be clearly seen then the 200 yard board should, itself, also be visible.

Suspension from the Start of a Competition

If conditions are such that any competition cannot be started on time for any reason then it is assumed that the “suspension of play” starts from the time of the first planned tee-time. As such the procedure for “re-starting play” will be followed and therefore if there is no improvement in conditions after a period of one hour then the competition will be abandoned.