

Golf Club - Re-Opening Protocols

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Introduction

On behalf of myself, the staff and Club Council we are delighted to welcome you all back to the golf club from Monday 18th May. We are fortunate that golf is one of the first sports to return to some degree of normality and all the stake-holders who brought this to fruition have our thanks. We would also like to place on record our thanks to David Curran and the team for carrying out the permitted essential maintenance during the period of closure - this has allowed us to return to our course in a more than acceptable standard.

Paramount in our thoughts now is allowing you, our members, to enjoy your game in a safe environment. This practical guide has been prepared to inform everyone of how golf will operate during **Phase 1** of our re-opening. The measures are, we believe, robust and will be monitored by all staff in the coming weeks. For you, the golfers, the guide covers each step of the journey from home to the appointed tee box and back home again. These measures are in place from start to end of play seven days a week until further updated. The measures and protocols are under constant review and refinement and will be updated as the need arises or in line with government, health authority or governing body updates.

All Members are reminded of the current Government Health Policy Guidelines which can be found at www.hse.ie

We ask for your complete co-operation with the measures listed herein as no doubt golf courses will be under extreme scrutiny in the coming weeks. We hope that through our adherence to these protocols we will work successfully toward the gradual lifting of the current restrictions and a return to as close to normal operations as possible in due course.

Please enjoy your golf and stay safe.

General Manager

Course Access

- In the initial phase the Club will be open to Members only and for casual golf only. We hope to allow non-members to visit in due course, initially at the invitation of members - this will only happen in line with further lifting of the current restrictions.
- Bookings will be facilitated through the BRS system and will go live 3 days in advance of the day of play, i.e. the timesheet for Monday 18th May will go live at 4pm on Friday 15th May. Member's access to each daily timesheet will be determined by their Member category.
- Members are asked to play a maximum of 3 times per week. This is to facilitate as many members as possible getting some golf and will be reviewed after two weeks.
- Initially we will operate 2 by 9 holes to allow access to all golfers. 1st tee start will be 8.30 and 10th tee start will be 10.30 am (Monday to Friday). 1st tee start will be 7.30am and 10th tee start 9am (Sat. and Sun).
- The practice area is CLOSED
- Playing Arrangements initially will be as follows :
- 3-balls at 14-minute intervals.
- Members who have been out of the country in the previous 14 days should not visit the Club.
- Members should not visit the Club if doing so puts them in contravention of government restrictions.
- Members should not visit the Club if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19.
- The usual reserved tee times for Men, Ladies & Junior Competitions are suspended until further notice.
- Due to the expected volume of play / the current dry spell and the necessity for staff to maintain the physical distancing protocols there will be times when the timesheet will be reserved for essential course maintenance. Absolutely no "cutting-in" is permissible in order to allow the course staff work ahead of the golfers.
- **Juniors Members** – Under 16 must play in the company of a family member / adult.

Booking & Arrival

- Pre-booking your tee time in advance is compulsory in Phase 1. You can book via BRS or by phone. Pre-booking is required to facilitate contact tracing should a member be affected with Covid-19.
- Please note that golfers who do not use booked tee times may be restricted from making further bookings.
- We recommend golf equipment be sanitised before leaving home.
- Ensure that you have sufficient numbers of golf balls, markers, tees to avoid having to exchange equipment with others.
- Golfers should travel to the Club alone, or with a member of the same household only.
- Please park in a manner so as to facilitate physical distancing.
- Arrive at the Clubhouse no more than 15 mins. before your reserved tee time.
- Resist the temptation to mingle prior to tee off (or after golf).
- Change shoes in the car park.
- Holes will be removed from the practice putting greens. No more than 5 persons on the practice green at any one time. Pitching around this green is NOT permitted.
- The practice nets & practice areas are open but social distancing must be observed.
- Range balls and dispensing machine will not be in use.

Clubhouse & Pro Shop

- The Clubhouse remains closed for now as per government policy.
- The ladies and gents' toilets in the locker rooms will be available and must be accessed through the doors on the golf course side of the clubhouse. Our staff will continue routine cleaning, sanitization and disinfection of all locations, especially all common and high traffic areas, and frequently touched surfaces.
- The Pro Shop will be open for limited hours am – pm from until further notice.
- Entry will be restricted to 2 customers maximum in the shop at any time.
- **All players must check in with the starter before commencing play.**
- Please observe the 2 metre queue marks on the floor.
- Only Card or account payments will be accepted.

To the Tee

- Groups are restricted to 3 balls every 14 minutes in this initial phase.
- Do not arrive at the first tee more than 5 minutes before your allotted tee time.
- Do not enter the teeing ground until the all members of the group in front have played their tee-shots and exited the teeing ground.

On The Course

- Club personnel will be on the golf course to monitor adherence with physical distancing protocols and the protocols set out in this document. Please adhere to all signage outlining the social distancing guidelines in place.
- Holes must be played in order starting from the 1st tee (or 10th on 9-hole days)
- Please adhere to signage on buggies and buggy usage will be limited to one person at a time. Buggy surfaces will be wiped down by staff prior to use. If you must use a golf buggy, it must only be used by you and cannot be shared with or used by another player.
- Ball washing stations will be out of use and course furniture will be taken out of use where possible. All rakes will be removed and a local rule will be put in place in place that permits placing your golf ball in any bunker on the course.
- Golfers are requested to personally dispose of any trash in the bins at the clubhouse.

- Family members should play together, rather than split into mixed groups.
- Observe physical distancing at all times on the course. Do not enter the next teeing ground until the all members of the group in front have played their tee-shots and exited the teeing ground. Do not exchange or share equipment, food or drink with other players during your round. Do not pick up another player's equipment or golf ball.
- If your ball is lost, unplayable, or in a penalty area, don't take an option under the rules that involves doubling back on your position on the course. Instead, use an option that allows you to keep your position on the course.
- Golfers are directed to leave the pin in the cup at all times and to avoid touching same.
- It is imperative that members adhere to pace of play guide lines to prevent any backups on the course. There will be rangers on duty to help with the pace of play and to ensure proper social distancing, please follow their instructions.

Home Safe

- The Club Cleaning area will not be operational.
- If using the toilet area hands should washed and/or sanitised.
- Return directly to your car and leave the club
- Members must call or email the Club Manager with any post-round health issues or Covid-19 related queries.

Staff Safety

- The **General Manager, First Tee & Pro Shop** Team will manage all customer facing aspects of the Club as follows:
 - *Only 2 staff members in the Pro Shop at any one time.*
 - *Staff have been provided with appropriate PPE for their use.*
 - *Staff are aware and recognise the importance of regular hand washing and cough / sneeze etiquette*
 - *Hand sanitisers are available to staff*
 - *Service Desk protection screens have been installed where appropriate*
 - *All works areas as sanitised regularly*

- The **Green-Keepers** are isolated on the course for much of the time and with steps taken to minimise risk of cross contamination during their shifts
- *Morning Briefings adhere to physical distancing protocols.*
- *Breaks are being staggered and taken alone in their vehicles.*
- *Hand sanitisers are provided.*
- *Gloves are provided.*
- *Staff have been provided with appropriate PPE for their use.*
- *Staff are aware and recognise the importance of regular hand washing and cough / sneeze etiquette*
- *Machinery is fully washed down after use.*

Finally

It is everyone's wish that the above measures can be relaxed on a regular and on-going basis so that we get back to some semblance of normality, including competitions, prior to season end however this can only happen if members have regard for the above protocols/their fellow members, and comply with what is asked of them.

As the Club was limited to "essential maintenance" only during the period of closure, Members are reminded that their expectations for the standard of the golf course should be tempered accordingly. This document will be updated and forwarded to members as and when changes are made by the Club, the GUI or the relevant government bodies.

Thank you and enjoy the Golf Course!