

## Old Conna Golf Club

### Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

Old Conna Golf Club considers the safety of its Members and Guests as the top priority during inclement weather conditions. Such conditions include Lightning, Fog, Storms, Excessive Rain, High Winds Frost & Ice etc. Local conditions and weather forecasts are generally monitored and a decision to close the course or suspend play will be taken with the welfare of the golfer and course staff as the main priority. Clearly there will also be occasions where it is necessary to close the course or suspend play to minimise damage to our Course.

*Old Conna Golf Club is not responsible for the safety of any golfer on the course and it is therefore your responsibility to remove yourself from any situation which you consider dangerous.*

This document is intended to inform members and staff as to who takes the decision to close the course or suspend play. In the event of a closure or suspension of play there are a number of mandatory protocols which must be followed.

### Decision to close course or suspend play.

The Head Greenkeeper or the Deputy Head Greenkeeper will normally make the decision to close the course for the day or to suspend play when it is required. Where neither are available, the decision will be made (in order of responsibility) by the General Manager, Starter at the first Tee or the Greens Chairperson.

### Protocol

Where there are golfers on the course, a Siren/Klaxon will be used to alert golfers that a decision has been taken to close the course or suspend play.

#### **(A) Two long blasts, repeated = Competition abandoned and/or Course Closed**

Play must stop immediately with players retiring to the Clubhouse. Should the Course reopen, the original timesheet will apply.

The Text Messaging & V1 systems will be used to inform players who have not yet commenced their round.

*The Siren/Klaxon will sound for a period of 5 seconds, immediately followed by it sounding for another 5 seconds. There will then be a gap of 15 seconds and the Siren/Klaxon will be sounded for a period of 5 seconds immediately followed by it sounding for another 5 seconds.*

#### **(B) Four short blasts, repeated = Play suspended.**

When you are playing in a competition and play has been suspended, you should mark your ball and immediately retire to the Clubhouse. Golfers playing casual golf must also leave the course immediately. Players will be advised if/when play can resume and the Competitions Committee will endeavour to facilitate an orderly resumption as soon as possible.

The Text Messaging & V1 systems will be used to inform players who have not yet commenced their round including, where appropriate, notification that delays to their starting time may be expected.

*The Siren/Klaxon will sound four times in quick succession. There will then be a gap of 15 seconds and the Siren/Klaxon will be sounded another four times in quick succession.*

**(C) One long blast, repeated = Resume Play**

The Text Messaging & V1 systems will be used to inform players who have not yet commenced their round including, where appropriate, notification that delays to their starting time may be expected.

*The Siren/Klaxon will sound for a continuous 10 seconds. There will then be a gap of 15 seconds and the Siren/Klaxon will be sounded another continuous 10 seconds.*

**Information on Specific Weather Events**

As detailed above, there are designated individuals & protocols to decide on whether to close the course or suspend play where the weather conditions (present or forecast) warrant it. While by no means the only such conditions, Lightning (or the threat of) and Fog are two weather events where players must consider the right course of action even when no siren/Klaxon has sounded.

**(i) Lightning**

If you see any lightning or you believe there is a real risk of lightening play must cease immediately and you should leave the course.

If this occurs when in a competition, you should mark your ball (where you deem it safe to do so) and leave the course immediately and await confirmation from the appropriate authority as to whether play has been suspended or the course has closed for the remainder of the day.

The recommended actions if you are caught out on the course in lightening are outlined in the appendix to this document.

It is the players own responsibility to discontinue play when in their opinion lightning is a threat. Players have a duty of care to themselves.

**(ii) Fog**

Where fog is on the course and no siren/klaxon has sounded, players must consider whether in their opinion, there is any risk to themselves or other golfers by continuing to play. A guideline to use when considering this is – can you see at least 250 yards in all directions?

It is the players own responsibility to discontinue play when in their opinion the fog is materially impairing visibility. As with lightening, it is not always possible to monitor conditions on the entire course and players have a duty of care to themselves and others.

## Appendix

- If there is a risk of lightning, don't go out. If you're already on the course, you must stop playing.
- Do NOT seek shelter under a tree. Lightning strikes the tallest objects.
- If you can, move to the clubhouse or another building near your location to find shelter indoors.
- Avoid contact with electrical devices and metal. This means do NOT seek shelter in the golf buggy, don't touch your golf clubs, umbrella or mobile phone and stay away from metal fencing.
- If you're in an open area and can't get to any building or car for shelter, then squat down with your hands on your knees and your head tucked between them. If you feel a tingling sensation in your hair or on your skin, drop to this position immediately. Try to touch as little of the ground as possible with your body. This makes you the smallest target possible for the lightning. Do NOT lie on the ground.
- Don't lean against concrete walls
- Avoid water and find a low-lying open place which is far from trees and metal objects.
- Don't rush back out onto the course straight away. Wait 30 minutes after the last lightning flash before resuming play, as over half of lightning deaths occur after the storm has passed.