



RUFFORD PARK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB RULES OF GOLF

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So that the golf club can be managed in a professional and understanding way, the clubs rules must be followed. It is our intention that everyone, both member and visitor alike, enjoy their golf at Rufford Park. If anyone is in any doubt about these rules, or if anyone has any criticism, or constructive comment about the facilities, then please do not hesitate to convey such comments to management. They are always welcome.

Help us to help you.

1. RULES OF GOLF

The rules of golf shall be those adopted by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, subject only to such local rules as may be approved by Management.

(a) The use of the course for professional and amateur tournaments or any similar events will be confined to events approved by Management.

(b) Management are responsible for enforcing the golf course rules and regulations.

2. REGISTRATION

All players, whether a member, members guest or visitor must first register at Reception, prior to commencement of play.

3. STARTING TIMES

Starting times are required for all play and Management is in charge of all bookings. These can be made either online via BRS, telephone or at Reception, up to 31 days for mid-week and six days for weekend prior to play. Players who are late will lose their starting time and will start play only at the discretion of the Starter or Professional staff.

4. CANCELLATION

Where players have failed to turn up for their pre booked starting time, or give less than 24 hours notice of cancellation, they may be charged a cancellation fee. Such charge will be made to the person in whose name the tee is booked and will be 50% of the standard green fee for the number of players booked. The member may be temporarily suspended from playing golf until such payment is made.

5. Management reserve the right to increase any tee reservation for 1, 2, 3, players to 4 at any time.

6. All matches must start from the 1st tee, unless other starting methods are in effect, or the players have gained prior permission from Reception.

7. When practising members and visitors are to use the Driving Range or practise Putting Green only. Driving range balls supplied by Rufford Park Golf Club only to be used on the Driving Range.

8. PACE OF PLAY

- (a) Play "Ready Golf" – always be ready to play your shot and play when you are ready.
- (b) Playing through – you must always allow quicker players to play through in all circumstances at your earliest convenience.
- (c) Priority is always with the team playing faster, whether (a) 1, 2, 3 or 4 players, (b) member or visitor, (c) playing casually or in a competition.
- (d) While searching for a ball players **must** allow other groups coming up to pass them; they **must** signal the group behind to pass and **must not** continue their play until that group have passed and are out of range. **If a ball is not found within 3 minutes it is deemed to be lost.**
- (e) Any group losing a clear hole for any reason **must** invite the following group through at the first opportunity.
- (f) When approaching a green, all players should park their carts to the rear of the green on the best direction to the next hole. Never leave a cart in front of the green, where a player will have to go back and get it.
- (g) When the result of a hole has been determined players **must** immediately leave the putting green and must not re-try their putts or practice putting. Marking of scorecards should be done on the next tee.
- (h) Practising on the course is forbidden.

9. DRESS CODE

All persons must dress in accordance with the following dress code; we recommend that it be smart but casual.

Shirts – appropriate golf tops should be worn at all times.

Trousers – casual trousers and tailored shorts are recommended. Jeans, track suits and sports/beach shorts will not be allowed.

Shoes – designated golf shoes should be worn at all times on the course. Wearing of appropriate footwear (including spikes) to compliment the current weather conditions is very important. See Clause 12. (f) for further clarification.

Members and visitors shall at all times maintain a reasonable standard of dress in the Clubhouse.

10. ETIQUETTE

It is the duty of all players to observe the points of etiquette at all times as outlined in the R&A Rules of Golf and in particular:

- (a) All green fees must be paid before play commences.
- (b) Each player must be equipped with their own bag of clubs, sharing a bag or trolley is not allowed.
- (c) The maximum number of players allowed in any group is **four**.
- (d) Players must on no account cut in unless the hole behind is clear and there is adequate space in front.
- (e) **All divots must be replaced and all pitch marks on the greens repaired.**
- (f) Players entering bunkers must smooth them out with the rakes provided or with their feet if there are no rakes.
- (g) Boundary fences or streams must not be crossed to retrieve balls.
- (h) A dangerous, wayward shot, should always be indicated by a loud shout of "**fore**".
- (i) Loud, rude, discourteous behaviour will not be tolerated.
- (j) No litter should be left on the course. Please use the litter baskets provided.

11. BAD BEHAVIOUR

Anyone (whether member or visitor), who does not abide by these Rules and Etiquette, may be asked to leave by any member of staff of Rufford Park Golf & Country Club, any membership or course fees paid **will not** be refunded.

12. PLAYER SAFETY & WEATHER CONDITIONS

Each player is individually responsible for their conduct on the golf course and must respect the safety of others. They must be fully aware of the whereabouts of all other players or working staff and only play if they are certain that they will not endanger anyone. They should also recognise the safety implications when playing in adverse weather, particularly points a) & b) listed below. **ALL** players **MUST** take the appropriate actions as indicated.

- (a) During times of limited visibility such as mist, fog, dawn and dusk all players should know the exact whereabouts of all other players. Never play if there is a possibility of hitting another player. Any person playing in such conditions does so entirely at their own risk.

- (b) In the case of thunder and lightning **all** players must keep away from all metallic objects and leave the course immediately.
- (c) Members Guests – it is the responsibility of members to ensure their guests act appropriately and adhere to the club policies and Health & Safety procedures.
- (d) As with most golf courses, Rufford Park Golf Club is not perfectly flat, there are undulations, slopes and trip hazards throughout the course, including holes made by burrowing animals. All players must take care while walking the course, be aware of these hazards and look where they are walking. Holes from burrowing animals can cause sprained ankles or worse so please take extra care when walking in long grass.
- (e) Uneven ground, gradients, up slopes, down slopes, ditches, tree branches, streams, ponds, bunkers, steps, pathways and golf furniture can all be hazards. Avoid walking up or down steep banks. Keep a safe distance from ditches, streams, ponds, deep bunkers and where ground falls away. **DO NOT** try and retrieve a lost ball in ponds, streams or ditches as there is a risk of falling in. Risk is increased in wet, frozen or muddy conditions.
- (f) Always wear the appropriate footwear and clothing ensuring they are in good condition and fit for purpose. If using golf shoes with moulded soles, metal or soft spikes take extra care when conditions are wet and beware of slippery surfaces such as wooden steps/sleepers or paths.
- (g) Accident & injuries must be reported to the golf shop reception as soon as possible, in order that the incident can be logged in the accident book.
- (h) Emergencies – clubhouse 01623 825253 (opt 3), defibrillator 01623 825253 (opt 1) or if unavailable, please call 999 and use postcode NG22 9DG.
- (i) Public Right of Way – There is a public right of way running down left side of the 13th & 14th holes. Users of this public right of way have priority on the golf course at all times. If there are people using this public right of way, please allow them to pass before playing a shot.

The Head Greenkeeper, together with Management or the duty Golf Professional may determine the closure of the course if and when they deem it unfit to play.

13. ELECTRIC OR PULL TROLLEYS AND BUGGIES

- (a) Trolleys and buggies must be kept off all tees, away from greens and bunkers and must keep to paths and areas indicated.
- (b) Trolleys and buggies must be parked safely in designated areas outside the clubhouse.
- (c) Any person to whom a rental trolley or buggy is allocated is responsible for any damage they may cause.
- (d) Any person using or hiring a buggy does so entirely at their own risk and will abide by the Buggy Hire Agreement and Health & Safety Buggy Policies which are displayed on the club notice boards.
- (e) The Head Greenkeeper, together with Management shall determine if and when the course conditions prohibit the use of trolleys and buggies. Please refer to the clubs full Risk Assessment and Course Map which can be found on the club notice boards.

14. All local rules and byelaws must be adhered to.

15. INSURANCE

Rufford Park Golf Club has Public Liability Insurance, however, all players should ensure they have their own adequate personal insurance to cover any eventuality which may result in litigation. Every player has a duty of care to themselves and towards all other players at Rufford Park.

16. RESPECT IN GOLF

Rufford Park Golf Club encourages inclusivity, and no form of discrimination will be tolerated. Full details of these policies can be found on the club notice boards and website.

17. DATA PROTECTION

Data Protection Act 2018 – personal information which has been provided to us, will only be used for the following:

- (a) Providing membership.
- (b) Processing membership payments.
- (c) Up to date relevant golf club information and events.
- (d) Confirming reservation details and requirements.
- (e) Third parties may be given personal information where the law requires it.

ANYONE REQUIRING EXPLANATION OR ADVICE ON ANY OF THE RULES OF GOLF ARE KINDLY REQUESTED TO ASK ONE OF THE CLUBS PGA GOLF PROFESSIONALS OR MANAGEMENT.