



BUGGY POLICY

The Birstall Golf Club General use of Ride-on Buggies on the Golf Course (In this document "Privately owned" refers to any Golf Buggy brought to the course & excludes the Golf Buggies available for hire from the Club Professional.)

Introduction

Due to disability, some members, visitors and guests may not be able to play golf without the help provided by a motorised ride-on buggy. The purpose of this document is to establish a standard for the safe operation of all ride-on buggies operated on the course at The Birstall Golf Club. The document also sets down the criteria to be applied and conditions to be met when the Club considers applications for buggy use.

Qualifications:

Use of a privately owned ride-on buggy will not be allowed unless authorised by the Club and will be restricted to members, visitors and guests demonstrably having a genuine incapacity to play golf unless aided by the use of the buggy. (See also `Use in General Play and Competitions` below).

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 this 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.
- A current medical certificate from a doctor or the discretion of the club.
- Valid 3rd party liability certificate.

In order that these conditions can in practice be met, the Club Secretary/Manager, 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.

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

From time to time the Club staff 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, this will be for reasons of practicality be assessed and judged hole by hole and not part of and posted on a notice board.

Potentially unsuitable conditions include waterlogging, frost, etc. Where such conditions arise the club will review the situation on a twice daily basis, early morning and midday. This will normally be on the discretion of the Greens Staff and when not available a member of the Course and Greens Committee.

Use in General Play and Competitions

During general (non-competition) play a ride-on buggy shall only be used by disabled members, visitors and guests authorised to do so. Ride-on buggies may be used during closed and open competitions by those suffering from a disability within the meaning of section 6 of The Equality Act 2010

Golf Buggy Safety Policy

The Club has a duty of care to all users of the golf course. The topography of certain areas of the course is such that caution and prudence must be shown by the user of a ride-on buggy. 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. This duty of care also applies to members of the public using the various rights of way.

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

1. Privately Owned Ride-on Buggies allowed on The Birstall Golf Club property are only for the use of members and visitors who are disabled within the meaning of the Equality Legislation.
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. Any signs and instructions employed on the course 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 fit for purpose (designed for golf course use) and not adapted from another use, they must be operated and parked in such a manner that they do not impede or interfere with normal pedestrian or vehicular flow on roadways, ramps or pavements.
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 Club.
6. The Birstall Golf Club 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 using the ride-on buggy.
12. The Professional or Secretary/Manager has the authority to immediately prohibit any individual from using or being carried on a ride-on buggy. Application for reinstatement of permission can only be made to the Club.

Safe Working Practice

- Ride-on buggy operators must not be under the influence of alcoholic drinks or drugs.

BEFORE USE

- All operators of ride-on buggies must sign a Safety Policy Acknowledgement form before they are allowed to drive the buggy
- A ride-on buggy shall only be used for the number of occupants it was designed to carry and only by people who are authorised to use one.

DURING USE

- Do not move off until the occupants are seated
- Always remain seated and hold on while the vehicle is in motion
- Hands, feet and head must be kept inside the buggy at all times while the vehicle is in motion
- Ride-on buggies must not be driven in prohibited areas
- The vehicle must be used to progress the game and must not be driven up and down excessively, e.g., when looking for golf balls
- The vehicle must not be used on tees, greens or the slopes leading up to them
- The vehicle must not be used within 2 metres of any bunkers, ditches or ponds or slopes leading to them except when using the designated pathways & bridges
- Check the area behind the vehicle before reversing
- Set the parking brake before leaving the vehicle
- Always consider the terrain, existing vehicular and pedestrian traffic conditions as well as environmental factors that may affect your ability to operate the vehicle safely
 - Drive the vehicle only as fast as the terrain and safety considerations allow
 - To avoid tipping over, drive the buggy straight up and down severe slopes
 - Slow down before corners.
 - All turns must be executed at reduced speeds
 - Avoid sudden stops or changes of direction that may result in loss of control
 - Be extra careful when the course is wet and muddy

AFTER USE

When the vehicle is left unattended, turn the ignition key to the off position, remove the key and engage the parking brake.

Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form

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

Any person who operates a Ride-on buggy on The Birstall Golf Club premises is deemed, by so doing, to have the knowledge, training and skill to safely operate the vehicle and shall be fully accountable for their actions and consequences thereof.

The safe operation of Ride-on buggies requires conscientious application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by this policy.

Name of User:

Address:

By signing below I acknowledge that:

- I have read The Birstall Golf Club Buggy Safe Working Practice
- I understand the terms and conditions of The Birstall Golf Club Golf Buggy Safety Policy
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions related to this Policy
- I am aware of the areas where I am unable to take a ride-on buggy

Where the buggy to be used is privately owned I further confirm that:

- I will ensure that the buggy will be maintained and operated in accordance with The Birstall Golf Club Golf Buggy Safety Policy
- I possess and have produced a copy of certified evidence that I have a disability within the meaning of section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 which disables me from playing golf without the use of a ride-on buggy; alternatively I have produced a copy of the required Medical Form signed by my doctor or prior agreement of the club.
- I have lodged with the Secretary/Manager a copy of my valid insurance policy to cover liability for risks to third parties.
- I agree to indemnify The Birstall Golf Club against all claims costs and demands made against The Birstall Golf Club arising out of or in connection with the use of the golf buggy.

Users of golf buggies do so at their own risk. Birstall 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 user.

Signature of User.....

Date.....

Signature of Secretary/Manager.....

Date.....

Checklist for users of Ride-on Buggies

Know the controls and how to use them

- Ignition switch and immobiliser key
- Accelerator
- Footbrake
- Parking brake – Set the brake before leaving the ride-on buggy
- Reversing Control

Know your driving conditions

Ride-on buggies can only be used for the number of occupants it was designed to carry and by those authorised to do so

Ride-on buggies must not be used on the areas of the course where prohibitive signs are placed. The vehicle must not be driven up and down the course when looking for golf balls

The vehicle must not be used on tees, greens or slopes leading up to them

The vehicle must not be used within 2 metres of or, on the slopes leading to any bunkers, ponds or ditches (except when crossing designated bridges & pathways)

Always consider the terrain, existing vehicular and pedestrian traffic conditions, as well as environmental factors that may affect your ability to operate the vehicle safely

- Drive the vehicle only as fast as the terrain and safety considerations allow
- To avoid tipping over, drive buggies straight up and down slopes
- Slow down before corners.
- All turns must be executed at reduced speeds
- Avoid sudden stops or change of direction that may result in loss of control

Points to note on the course

Car Park & Clubhouse Environs

Care must be exercised in the car park in regard to parked and moving vehicles and pedestrians, and on the approach to the 1st or 10th tees.

There is no access for buggies to the rear of the clubhouse.

Hole by Hole pointers are as follows:-

Note: These instructions are to be read in conjunction with the overall policy and do not absolve the user from complying with the requirement to avoid any tee or green (including temporary greens) or any ground under repair or into any bunker. A buggy must not be driven on to any apron nor inside any greenside bunker and should also avoid pond surrounds etc. as indicated within the policy document(s).

Hole 1: The 1st green should be **passed** only on the **right hand side**.

Hole 2: Park top-side of ladies tee or top side of men's tee. Take extra care - Buggies should be driven in the **semi-rough on left or right side** in the interest of safety and to avoid damage to the steep fairway.

Hole 3: Please take extra care as there is **no access** for buggies to the **sides and rear of the third green**. The

path to the 4th tees must be used to avoid the pond and margins on the right.

- Hole 4:** Buggies may be **driven** on the **left or right**.
- Hole 5:** Buggies have **no access** to the **left side of the 5th green**, by the boundary hedge.
- Hole 6:** Straight forward until near green. There is **no access** for buggies **to the right** nor rear of the 6th green having regard to the pond behind the 4th tee.
- Hole 7:** From Men's tee please go around the **tree side of the ladies tees**. **Do not use path**.
- Hole 8:** Care should be exercised near the mounds and hollows around the trees at the angle of the dogleg and the mounds and hollows near the 8th green.
- Hole 9:** There is **no access** for buggies to the **sides** and **rear** of the **9th green**.
- Hole 10:** **Care** should be exercised near the **ditch to the left** and **near the pond to the right**. Access to the 11th tees is to the right, or around the back of the 10th green.
- Hole 11:** Care should be exercised near the mound at the start of trees to the right. Extra care should be exercised to the **right of the 11th green** having regard to the **steep sided pond and uneven ground**. The preferred and safer **route to the 12th tees is to the left of the 11th green**.
- Hole 12:** **Care** should be exercised near the **mounds and ditch to the right**. The preferred **route to the 13th tees** is to the **left of the 12th green**.
- Hole 13:** **Care** should be exercised on the **uneven ground to the left of the 12th green** and all players should be **aware of play** on the **12th hole**.
- Hole 14:** Care should be exercised near the mound and **uneven ground to the left** past the copse in the angle of the dogleg. There is **no access** for buggies **to the right of the 14th green**.
- Hole 15:** **All players should be aware of pedestrians to the right who have right of way**. Buggy drivers should exercise care when negotiating the rising ground 100 yds in front of the green.
- Hole 16:** Care should be exercised when negotiating the falling ground 200 yds from the tee. The **preferred route to 17th tees** is to the **left of the 16th green**.
- Hole 17:** **All players should be aware of pedestrians to the left of the 17th tees, who have right of way**. Care should be exercised near the ditches to the left and the right 70 yds from the 17th tee and near the ditch to the left by the boundary hedge.
- Hole 18:** Care should be exercised near the mounds at the apex of the dogleg on the right, and at the ditch to the left of the 18th green. Buggies should **exit the course to the right of the 18th green** where there is a lowered kerb to the car park.



MEDICAL FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT'S DOCTOR

I, Dr.....

of.....

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Certify that I have examined

Of.....

.....

I am of the opinion that he/she has a disability within the meaning of section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or any statutory modification thereof and is unable to play or has undue difficulty in playing golf without the use of a motorised ride-on golf buggy.

Signed:

Dated: