



BIRSTALL GOLF CLUB BUGGY POLICY

Sections

- 1) Qualifications & Criteria for Buggy Use
- 2) Equality Act 2010
- 3) Course Topography Considerations & Restrictions
- 4) Golf Buggy Safety Policy
- 5) Conditions of Use
- 6) Golf Buggy Safe Working Practice
- 7) Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgment Form

Introduction & Background

Birstall Golf Club has a duty of care to all users of the golf course. 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 any ride-on buggies authorised and operated within the confines of Birstall Golf Club. The document also sets down the criteria to be applied and conditions to be met when Birstall considers applications for buggy use.

The topography of the course is such that you are asked to please take particular note of Course Topography Considerations & Restrictions thereof referred to later within this document.

This document is based upon & adapted from a template kindly provided by The National Golf Clubs' Advisory Association (NGCAA) www.ngcaa.co.uk

1) Qualifications & Criteria for Buggy Use

Use of a ride-on buggy will not be allowed unless authorised by Birstall Golf Club and will be restricted to members, visitors and guests with a medically recognised disability. This policy adheres to **Section of The Equality Act 2010** (see later within this document).

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 the 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 Acknowledgment Form

In order that these conditions can in practice be met, the Birstall Golf Club Management Team/General 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 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. Potentially unsuitable conditions include, but are not restricted to, waterlogging, frost, snow & reduced visibility. Where such conditions arise the Club will review the situation on a daily basis.

2) Equality Act 2010

Ride-on buggies may be used during closed and open competitions by those suffering from a disability within the meaning of *Section of The Equality Act 2010* quoted below;

Disability

(1) A person (P) has a disability if—

P has a physical or mental impairment, and

The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on P's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

(2) A reference to a disabled person is a reference to a person who has a disability.

(3) In relation to the protected characteristic of disability—

A reference to a person who has a particular protected characteristic is a reference to a person who has a particular disability;

A reference to persons who share a protected characteristic is a reference to persons who have the same disability.

(4) This Act (except Part 12 and section 190) applies in relation to a person who has had a disability as it applies in relation to a person who has the disability; accordingly (except in that Part and that section)—

A reference (however expressed) to a person who has a disability includes a reference to a person who has had the disability, and

A reference (however expressed) to a person who does not have a disability includes a reference to a person who has not had the disability.

(5) A Minister of the Crown may issue guidance about matters to be taken into account in deciding any question for the purposes of subsection (1).

(6) Schedule 1 (disability: supplementary provision) has effect.

3) Course Topography Considerations & Restrictions

Due to the historic layout of Birstall Golf Club and in particular hole 2, the front nine holes are particularly challenging for buggies during adverse weather conditions. With a number of the holes on the front nine also being subject to particularly wet conditions our concentration for **blue badge holders only** will be on making the back nine holes available when the course is subject to an overall “carrying only/no buggies” or “no buggies” restriction.

During such periods the back nine therefore will be available to **blue badge holders** and will be subject to the 90 degree rule on all holes ie the buggy must be driven along the side of the hole until the player draws level with his/her ball and he/she can then turn across the fairway to where the ball lies, returning to the side of the fairway after playing the shot. **Blue badge holders** wishing to play

18 holes can repeat the back nine alternating on the 10th tee with carrying only players playing the full 18 holes.

4) Golf Buggy Safety Policy

The Club has a duty of care to its employees and all users of the golf course. Caution and care must be shown by all users of buggies. The Club must also ensure adequate safe means of access for all golfers as well as those given permission to use buggies. Moreover, the Club has to ensure the safety of the majority of golfers who do not use buggies but who might be at risk from a mechanically defective buggy or its careless use. The Club's duty of care also applies to any members of the public who may be on the course.

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

1. Ride on buggies on at Birstall Golf Club are only for use 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. The 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 unacceptable wear and tear to the course, must be followed at all times.
4. Ride-on buggies 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 buggies operators will be responsible for the security of ignition keys for the period that the buggy is on the property owned by Birstall Golf Club.
6. 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 main car park 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 only be used between dawn & dusk.
9. Ride-on buggies must be operated in compliance with the common rules on the road regardless of whether they 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 is not permitted when using the ride-on buggy.
12. The Birstall Golf Club Management Team / General 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 Birstall Golf Club.

5) Conditions of Use

To ensure the safe use of buggies, all users are required to comply with the following conditions:-
Buggies may only be used by those authorised by Birstall Golf Club so to do.

Buggies must be operated with the utmost common sense, courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of pedestrians. Pedestrians must be afforded the right-of-way at all times. Users will be responsible for the security of ignition keys for the period that the buggy is in use in their care and on Club property.

Any signs and instructions used to warn buggy riders of potential danger areas or areas in which buggies must not be used because of the potential to cause unacceptable wear and tear to the course must be complied with at all times.

Birstall Golf Club has no responsibility for ensuring the safe operation of 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 buggy by their servants or agents.

6) Golf Buggy Safe Working Practice

Before Use

All users must sign a Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form (below) before they are allowed to drive a buggy at Birstall Golf Club. This can be signed and sent back to us before the day of play or on the day itself.

All users must ensure that they are familiar with the buggy controls and the constraints on buggy use and pay a key deposit prior to buggy use.

During Use

A buggy shall only be used for the number of occupants it was designed to carry and only by those who are authorised to do so by the Club.

Under no circumstances should the buggy be removed from the grounds of Birstall Golf Club unless it is owned by the player.

The player should be satisfied that the buggy is well maintained and fully serviceable; not move off until the occupants are seated; always remain seated with hands, feet and head kept inside the buggy at all times while the buggy is in motion;

Not drive buggies in prohibited areas;

Use the buggy to progress the game by driving it in the direction of play;

Keep the buggy on pathways or closely mown grass, not on fairways where possible;

Must not drive the buggy in tight circles or into the rough or semi-rough even when looking for golf balls;

Not use the buggy on tees, greens or the slopes leading up to them;

Not use the buggy within 2 metres of any bunkers, ditches or slopes leading to them;

Check the area behind the buggy before reversing;

Apply the parking brake before leaving the buggy;

Always consider the terrain, existing vehicular and pedestrian traffic as well as environmental factors that may affect the user's ability to operate the buggy safely;

Drive the buggy only as fast as the terrain and safety considerations allow;

Drive the buggy directly up and down sharp slopes to avoid the risk of it tipping over;

Slow down before cornering;

Execute all turns at reduced speeds;

Avoid sudden stops or changes of direction to prevent loss of control or damage to grass;

Take extra care in strong winds or when the course is wet or frosted.

After Use

After use, the buggy should be parked in an appropriate place with the parking brake engaged and not obstructing any route likely to be used by other players/drivers, the operating key turned to the off position ready for collection by a member of staff at the Club.

7) Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form

All golfers must complete this form prior to using a Golf Buggy ("Buggy")

Any person/s who accept the privilege of operating a buggy at Birstall Golf Club are required in so doing, to have the knowledge, training and skill to operate the buggy safely and shall be fully accountable for their actions and consequences thereof.

The safe operation of buggies requires responsible application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by this policy.

Name of User

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Address:

By signing I acknowledge that:.....;

- I have read and understand Birstall Golf Club Buggy Safe Working Practice

- I understand the terms and conditions of the Birstall Golf Club Buggy Policy
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions related to this Practice and Policy
- I am aware of the areas where I am unable to take a buggy
- I will ensure that the buggy will be used in accordance with the Birstall Golf Club Policy
- I confirm that I have a current and valid insurance policy to cover liability for risks to third parties. I also confirm I have a current and valid driving licence.
- I agree to indemnify Birstall Golf Club against all claims costs and demands made against the Club arising out of or in connection with the use of the golf buggy

Signature of user.....

Signature of Club

Official.....Date.....

Name.....

Position.....

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 other than arising from the negligence of the Club or any of its servants or agents