

Hartley Wintney Golf Club
Course Risk Assessment – April 2023

Health & Safety Document – Course Risk Assessment Statement

Members, Guests and Visitors are hereby advised that comprehensive Risk Assessments are regularly carried out on the Course in accordance with the Club's Health & Safety Policy.

It is your responsibility, as a golfer, caddie or spectator on the course, to ensure that you consider safety and adhere strictly to the following:

- Practice play is strictly limited to the designated practice grounds which are a) the short range located next to the rear car park, b) the short game practice area adjacent to the range and c) the putting green located by the 1st tee. Woods are not to be used on the short range unless under the supervision of the Professional staff.
- You are advised to take particular care when moving around the course in wet or cold weather, when underfoot conditions may require extra caution. Steps on the course should be used with great care, particularly in wet conditions;
- You are advised to adopt caution, and be aware of your surroundings, when close to any trees on the course, particularly during windy or other adverse weather conditions. While branches considered to be dangerous are removed whenever possible, the Club cannot be held responsible for natural conditions prevailing at any particular time;
- You are advised to use caution when going down or up any steep incline on the course, particularly when using golf buggies or trolleys. Adherence to the instructions detailed on any directional signage for buggies and/or trolleys is also essential in order to minimise risk in this respect;
- Special care must be taken to avoid trips, slips and falls when standing on or walking near banks and slopes, especially those adjacent to ponds and ditches, as these are the most hazardous areas of the course, particularly during or immediately after adverse weather conditions;
- Players should be aware that some of the ponds and ditches have deep water and the banks can be treacherous. Players should take great care when retrieving balls from these areas;
- There are numerous bridges on the golf course which may become slippery when the ground is wet or when leaves are on the ground. Care must be taken when crossing over any of the bridges to avoid slips and trips;
- You are advised to avoid oral contact with anything that comes into contact with the golf course (including trees, sand, soil and grass), particularly when caution signs indicate that chemicals have recently been sprayed on the course;

- In the event that you come across any dead wildlife on the course, you are expressly prohibited from any contact with it and requested to advise a member of the Club Staff, who will deal with it accordingly;
- You are advised, when playing, to take every precaution to avoid hitting anybody with your golf ball. Particular care should be taken at holes where the landing area is not clearly visible (especially the 8th where teeing off should only commence after the bell has been sounded by the players in front), and wherever parallel fairways are played in opposing directions. At the 3rd and 4th, where the holes cross, priority is given to those teeing off the 3rd, as stated on the course signage;
- Never play a shot unless the players ahead are well out of range. If a miss-hit shot is heading in the direction of other golfers, you must shout "FORE!" in a loud voice to alert players of possible danger. If "FORE!" is heard when playing, please take evasive action if possible;
- Golfers must always stand well back behind the player who is playing his shot, both on the tee and on all other areas of the Course. A swinging golf club can be dangerous and can cause damage;
- All golfers must ensure that they are adequately insured in respect of the risks involved with the playing of golf. It is recommended that golfers should be insured against the unlikely event of them being injured or causing injury as a result of an errant shot.
- The greens staff are regularly working on the Course when golf is in progress. Please be careful and courteous to them and ensure that they are aware of, and have acknowledged your presence, prior to playing in their proximity.

Fog Policy

In order to fulfil our health & safety responsibilities, when fog reduces visibility, the course will be closed for the safety of players, course staff and persons using the public rights of way.

The decision to close the course for fog lays primarily with the greens staff, but the Pro Shop team will make the decision in their absence. **A decision to reopen the course will only be made when the fog has clearly lifted and good visibility is maintained for a minimum of 20 minutes.**

When greenkeepers are not on site, the greenside bunkers on the 1st green being clearly visible from the white tee will be used as a guide by the Pro Shop team. However, if there is any doubt as to whether the whole course is safe to play, it will remain closed.

In the event of fog coming down whilst you are on the golf course, the decision whether to stop play lies with the golfer unless they are specifically instructed to leave the course by the greens staff. **If you cannot see your intended target then it is not safe to continue and you must return safely to the Clubhouse.** This is to make sure that other players, staff and members of the public can be kept as safe as possible.

If the course is closed due to fog, tee times will not get pushed back and you will have to rebook at the next available time. Where possible, 9 hole rounds off the 10th tee may be offered to those who lost their tee time due to the fog.

Lightning Policy

General Play:

In the event of thunderstorms or electrical activity it is **recommended that golfers should cease play immediately** and seek the nearest area of safe shelter. Players must take responsibility for their own safety and not rely on any audible warnings from the clubhouse.

Rule 5.7 (a) A player may stop play if he or she reasonably believes there is danger from lightning, **but** must report to the Committee as soon as possible.

Major Competitions (i.e. Pro Am, Club Champs):

Under competition rules, if play is being suspended by the committee due to a dangerous situation such as a thunderstorm or electrical activity, players will be informed. In this instance you **MUST mark your ball and seek the nearest area of safe shelter**.

When the competition is resumed, if a player believes there is danger from lightning they are allowed to discontinue play at any stage.

All Members, Guests and Visitors are kindly requested to advise the General Manager of any hazards they feel have not been addressed above.