

WOODFORD GOLF CLUB INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Adverse Weather Conditions

Players need to be aware of the dangers of lightning and extreme weather conditions on the golf course. If you are concerned about lightning or extreme weather, come off the course immediately. If you are caught out on the course during severe weather, please follow the below procedures and take action to ensure your safety.

Members should keep in mind that evacuation of the course can take up to 20 minutes from the sound of the siren. In the event of a potential lightning strike a decision must be made to cancel or suspend competition play as early as possible to allow enough time for members to clear the course.

Where possible, players will be warned before play about the potential for severe weather occurring on the course. Once the severe weather has reached the golf course and surrounds, no staff/member will be permitted access to the course until it has been deemed safe.

Course Closures

The Manager, Professional or Employee of the Golf Club, shall make an assessment as to the appropriateness of suspension/cancellation of play due to the potential for lightning strikes.

If the playing conditions are deemed dangerous, the Manager, Professional or Member of the Golf Shop Staff will close the course. This information will be passed to the players through the golf shop. They will advise players not to commence their game. For players already on the course one long blast will be sounded with an air horn on the 1st tee. Where possible, golf shop staff will advise players on course of the impending severe weather. On hearing this horn **all players MUST suspend play. No staff/members will be allowed access to the course after the siren has sounded.**

LIGHTNING POLICY

TRIGGER POINT FOR LIGHTNING TO STOP PLAY:

1. When lightning is within 10 kilometres of the golf course.
2. When a player believes there is danger from lightning, even though no siren has been sounded. Lightning is one case where players may also stop play on their own accord if they believe there is danger from lightning (Rule 5.7). However, if a player does so, he or she must report to the Golf Shop as soon as possible.

Members/Players will:

- Stop playing immediately, mark their ball
- Make their way back to the Clubhouse immediately
- Avoid standing under trees or near water.
- Avoid having unnecessary contact with steel or metal products.
- It is recommended that players keep away from tall objects such as trees. During the storm, players are advised not to swing/hold clubs or umbrella, as they may act as a lightning conductor.

The process for re-opening the course is detailed below (ideally 30 minutes after the last thunderclap is heard).

Recommendations during a Storm:

- Put down your umbrella.
- Keep away from the tree line.
- Open golf carts will not protect you from lightning strike.
- Shelter: Remember, open structures are not considered safe. An enclosed building is the safest place to be during a lightning strike.
- If taking shelter in a building structure or vehicle, please ensure doors and windows are closed and avoid touching things that may conduct electricity.
- Stay away from plumbing and electrical wiring, and **DO NOT** use the phone. If you can't be in a building, an enclosed vehicle with a hard top and the windows rolled up is an option. But remember, it's the metal casing around you that protects you, not the rubber tyres. Don't touch the sides of the car.
- **30/30 Rule:** By the time the flash-to-bang count is 30 seconds, you should be in a safe location. And you shouldn't resume outdoor activity until 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard.

Re-Opening the Course

When conditions have improved and play can safely resume the Manager, Professional or employee of the Golf Club will re-open the course.

3 short blasts on the air horn will be sounded to advise players that it is safe to re-commence play.

This policy is to be read within conjunction with the rules of golf.