



The Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club

Policy for the Use of Ride-on Buggies on the Golf Course

Introduction

Some Members, Members' Guests and visitors as a result of disability may not be able to play golf without the help provided by a motorised ride-on buggy. The Club has some motorised ride-on buggies (referred to in this document as a Club buggy or Club buggies as appropriate) available for hire by those suffering from a disability as defined within Section 6 of the Equality Act 2010, subject to availability and advance reservation.

The purpose of this document is to establish a standard for the safe operation of Club buggies operated on the Course at Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club. The document also sets out the criteria to be applied and conditions to be met when the Club considers applications for the hire of a Club buggy.

All buggies are fitted with GPS devices to prevent buggies from entering prohibited areas of the golf course. Those using the buggies must remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings at all times as there are many bunkers and slopes where accidents can occur. Buggies may only be driven by those who have met the qualifications defined in this policy. Disabled Members' Guests who require a Club buggy must have it driven for them by the introducing Member. Those who are not disabled, whether Members, Members' Guests or visitors are not permitted to drive or ride in Club buggies, except where an introducing Member is driving for their disabled Guest.

Definitions

'Disability' shall have the same definition as that contained in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010. A person has a disability if they have either a physical or mental impairment and that impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect of their ability to carry out normal day to day activities and/or play golf.

'Valid medical confirmation of disability' shall mean a valid medical certificate from a registered general practitioner or consultant registered with the Health Professions Council that the person seeking to use a golf buggy under this policy, is suffering from a disability, as defined in Section 6 of the Equality Act 2010.

Qualifications:

Use of a Club buggy will not be allowed unless authorised by the Club and will be restricted to Members, Members' guests and visitors in each case only if suffering from a disability as defined in Section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 who can provide a valid medical confirmation of their disability. **No buggies other than Club buggies will be permitted on the Course.**

Any person who accepts the privilege of the use of a Club buggy on the golf Course is deemed by so doing, to have the knowledge, training and skill safely to operate this vehicle and be fully accountable for their actions and the consequences thereof.

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

Club 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.

In order that these conditions can in practice be met, the Club Secretary or Assistant Secretary must be given prior notice of a requirement by a Member, Member's guest or Visitor to have the use of a Club buggy. The Club reserves the right to refuse permission if all of the conditions stipulated are not complied with.

The Club also reserves the right to withdraw authorisation if the disability necessitating the use of a Club 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 Club buggy is used. This might apply to the whole or just part of the Course. Potentially unsuitable conditions include water logging, frost, etc. Where such conditions arise, the Club will review the situation on at least a twice daily basis.



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 Club buggy. It is also necessary for the Club to provide adequately safe means of access for all golfers including those given permission to use Club buggies. Moreover, the Club has to ensure the safety of golfers who do not wish to use Club buggies but who might be at risk from a mechanically defective Club 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 Club buggies all potential users (Members, authorised caddies and visitors) shall comply with the following conditions:

1. Club buggies on The Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club property are only for the use of Members, and visitors with a valid medical certificate of disability as defined in Section 6 of the Equality Act 2010, or an authorised caddy.
2. Club 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, as well as the buggy's built in GPS, to warn Club buggy riders of potential danger areas or, areas forbidden to Club 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. Club buggies must be operated and parked in such a manner that they do not impede or interfere with normal pedestrian or vehicular flow.
5. Club buggy operators will be responsible for the security of ignition keys for the period the Club buggy is hired to them.
6. The Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club has no responsibility for ensuring the safe operation of Club 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 Club buggy by their servants or agents.
7. No Club buggy should be operated at an excessive speed.
8. Club buggies shall be used only between dawn and dusk.
9. Operators must stop the Club buggy at blind intersections and proceed with caution.
10. The consumption of alcohol and/or the improper use of drugs when using the Club buggy is prohibited.
11. The Club Secretary has the authority immediately to prohibit any individual from using or being carried on a Club buggy. Application for reinstatement of permission can only be made to the Council of the Club.



Safe Working Practice

Club buggy operators must not be under the influence of alcoholic drinks or drugs and must never allow children to drive the ride-on buggy.

BEFORE USE

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

DURING USE

- **Club buggies must not be driven in the rough, on tees, greens or the slopes leading up to them, between greenside bunkers and the green, within 2 metres of any bunkers, ditches or ponds or slopes leading to them except when using the designated bridges, nor in areas marked as prohibited.**
- **The Club buggy must be used to progress the game and must not be driven up and down excessively, e.g., when looking for golf balls**
- 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 Club buggy at all times while the vehicle is in motion
- 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 Club buggy is left unattended, turn the operating key to the off position, remove the key and engage the parking brake.



Checklist for Users of Club 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

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