

- **Buggy Policy Downfield Golf Club Use of Ride-on Buggies on the Golf Course**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to establish a standard for the safe operation of all ride-on buggies operated on the golf course at Downfield Golf Club. The document also sets down the criteria to be applied and conditions to be met when the Club considers applications for the use of privately owned buggies.

**Equality Act 2010** Primarily, the act concerns itself with anyone who has a disability as defined by this legislation. Under the Act, Golf Clubs and other premises have a legal duty to produce a policy that allows equal access to the Club to those players who have a recognised disability as defined by Section 6 of the Act. The Club has to ensure that all reasonable adjustments, which may include the use of a golf buggy, are made to allow those with a disability to play Golf.

Downfield Golf Club has also decided that it would also be beneficial to develop a policy that encompasses all members and visitors who, while not fulfilling the legislative definitions of being disabled, need the help provided by a motorised ride-on buggy to play golf.

### **Qualifications:**

Use of a ride-on buggy will not be allowed unless authorised by the Club.

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**
- **Buggy Route Guidelines**
- **Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form.**

From time to time the Green Keeping staff may recommend that buggies are not used due to 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 water logging, frost, etc. Where such conditions arise the Club will review the situation on at least a daily basis. The Club also recognises the vast differences in weight and construction of different types of ride-on buggy. As such, it may be the case that restrictions could be imposed on the use of larger and heavier two seat 'Club Car' type buggies while single seat buggies are permitted on the golf course.

The Club will endeavour to ensure that restrictions placed on buggy users will be kept to a minimum.

Use in General Play and Competitions - Ride on buggies may be used during closed and open competitions.

## **Appendices:**

- 1. Golf Buggy Safety Policy**
- 2. Golf Buggy Safe Working Practice**
- 3. Buggy Route Guidelines**
- 4. Medical Form (Equality Act)**
- 5. Medical Form (Incapacity)**

### **Appendix 1                      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. Ride-on buggies at Downfield Golf Club are primarily encouraged by those suffering from a disability, within the meaning of the Equality Legislation, which disables them from playing golf without the use of a ride-on buggy.
2. Players may also use buggies if they do not have a disability within the meaning of Section 6 of the Equality Act, 2010.
3. 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.
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 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. Downfield 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 is not permitted when using the ride-on buggy.

12. The Greens Staff, Secretary or any Management Committee Member has the authority to immediately prohibit any individual from using or being carried on a ride-on buggy if any of the conditions are transgressed.

Application for reinstatement of permission can only be made to the Club.

## **Appendix 2                      Safe Working Practice**

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

### **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 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 operating key to the off position, remove the key and engage the parking brake.

#### **APPENDIX 3 Buggy Route Guidelines**

All operators of ride on buggies must follow the designated route as laid down in the supplied Stroke Saver booklet.

Failing to adhere to the designated route may result in disciplinary action leading to the loss of the right of usage.

Prior to play, each approved applicant must ensure that they are completely aware of existing potential troubled areas and any new places by speaking with the Professional's Shop staff.

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.

In general it is expected that anyone who is given the privilege of using their motorised ride-on buggy at Downfield Golf Club to operate in a totally and sensibly common sense way, fully respecting the course and all those around them. Therefore, it is only correct that anyone causing unnecessary damage will have their application withdrawn immediately.

Whenever Downfield Golf Club has in force as a minimum course rule "Preferred Lies" the following must be adhered to by all ride-on buggy users:-

- Travel only in the semi rough or rough.
- When approaching the ball to play a shot other than a tee shot, the ride-on buggy should be stopped in the semi rough or rough and parked at 90 degrees to the ball, then the buggy user should walk to their ball to play the shot. In general it is expected that all ride on buggy users totally avoid

all fairways unless absolutely necessary, or as directed by Downfield Golf Club staff or due to their disability, and then only if it is safe to proceed. For some disabled golfers this may not always be possible. In such cases they MUST proceed as follows:

- If the ride-on buggy user's disability is such that they are forced to travel on the fairway then please respect the conditions and everyone's safety.
- Do not travel the same path twice thus avoiding excessive damage. Please use your initiative and common sense at all times.

**GOLF BUGGY USERS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT and ACCEPTANCE FORM**

All Buggy Users must complete this form prior to operating a motorised ride-on Golf Buggy. Any person who accepts the privilege of operating a ride-on buggy at Downfield 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 and accept that:

I have read, understand and accept Downfield Golf Club's "Buggy Policy"

I have read, understand and accept Downfield Golf Club's "Golf Buggy Safety Policy" (Appendix1)

I have read, understand and accept Downfield Golf Club's "Safe Working Practices" (Appendix 2)

I have read, understand and accept the Downfield Golf Club Buggy Route Guidelines (Appendix3)

I will ensure that the buggy will be maintained and operated in accordance with the Downfield Golf Club Golf Buggy Safety Policy

I have lodged with the Club Secretary a copy of my valid motorised ride-on buggy insurance policy to cover liability for risks to third parties while operating a ride-on buggy.

I agree to indemnify Downfield Golf Club against all claims costs and demands made against Downfield Golf Club arising out of or in connection with the use of the golf buggy.

Signature of User ..... Date.....

Signature of Secretary ..... Date.....

#### **Appendix 4**

Medical form to be completed by the applicant's doctor for applicants who have a disability within the meaning of section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or statutory modification thereof and who is unable to play or has undue difficulty in playing golf without the use of a motorised ride-on buggy

**I, Dr.**

**Of**

**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:**

#### **Appendix 5**

Medical form to be completed by the applicant's doctor for applicants who under their doctor's professional opinion have an incapacity that would prevent them from playing golf without the use of a motorised ride on golf buggy.

**I, Dr.**

**Of**

**Certify that I have examined**

**Of**

**I am of the opinion that he/she has an incapacity that would prevent them from playing golf without the use of a motorised ride-on golf buggy.**

**Signed:**

**Dated:**