

EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

The Board of Directors and Golf Committee have created an extreme weather policy that reflects a duty of care for its members and guests.

It has been prepared with the aim of maximising member playing opportunities, but also clearly identifying the required procedures when weather events reach levels in which a player's safety and damage to the golf course are at risk.

The Extreme Weather Policy addresses issues of extreme heat, lightning, fog and strong winds. It also addresses the need to suspend play when the course becomes unplayable because of heavy rain or other circumstances.

The club will use its emergency warning siren to communicate to its golfers. The siren, when sounded, has a 10-second horn noise. This warning siren will be used to suspend play.

IMMEDIATE STOP: One 10-second note of siren.

RESUME PLAY: Two 10-second notes of siren.

Rationale:

1. Portarlinton Golf Club has a duty of care to its members and seeks to take a reasonable approach to days of extreme heat.
2. Portarlinton Golf Club has taken advice by Golf Australia.
3. Portarlinton Golf Club is concerned for the health, safety, welfare and wellbeing of all its members and guests.
4. Cancellation of the competition of the day is on advice from pro shop staff and club captain that it considers weather conditions too dangerous for play.
5. Members who play on days of extreme heat do so at their own risk. Members are advised to take appropriate actions to prevent heat stress. The Portarlinton Golf Club reminds all members about the appropriate measures to be taken to avoid heat stress, heat stroke, heat cramps and heat exhaustion.
6. The members will have certainty and will know from the forecast at 4.30pm of what to expect on the following day.

Heat Policy

Should the forecast temperature using the Geelong/Surf Coast temperature forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology website at 4.30pm the day before the competition be 38C or higher, the PM field on a two-tee start or groups with tee times after 8.45am on a one-tee start will **NOT** be in the competition of the day.

The course will remain open for members' social play for these later times.

If the competition of the day was an honour board or major event, this event will be rescheduled.

Morning competition tee times are allowed at the golfer's risk. This is done as this is generally before the day reaching its highest temperatures.

Should the forecast at 4.30pm the day before the competition be 41C or higher, no competition golf will be provided throughout the entire day.

The pro shop staff, in consultation with the club captain, may choose to resume competition golf on the day if updated forecasting allows for favourable conditions.

Members who play on days of extreme heat are advised to apply sunscreen, wear hats, carry an umbrella and other protective clothing and continually re-hydrate (with water) during play.

Heat Stress

The policy notes that stresses occur when air temperatures exceed 35C and particularly when body temperatures exceed 37.6C. Heat illnesses arising from excessive heat while playing sports include:

- o Heat rash
- o Heat cramps
- o Heat exhaustion and heat stroke
- o Fainting and hyperventilation

NB: The cancellation of the competition on days of extreme heat represents the club's advice that members should take appropriate and due care for their health and welfare. Members will know before arriving at the course of the situation that they can expect.

Lightning Policy

The Rules of Golf acknowledge that lightning on golf courses has caused deaths and injuries and urges golf clubs to take precautions for the protection of members and guests against lightning.

Such provision permits the pro shop staff and club captain to suspend play or discontinue play if they believe there is a danger from lightning.

When the pro shop staff and/or club captain suspends play, all golfers must discontinue play immediately.

The pro shop staff, in consultation with the club captain, will determine when play is to resume.

Failure to discontinue play on the advice of the pro shop or club captain will result in disqualification from the competition of the day.

Policy:

Should lightning be in the immediate vicinity (within a 15km radius) of the golf course, the pro shop staff will consider the risk and if the situation is considered dangerous will, in the interests of the health and safety of the members, suspend play.

The pro shop staff will use the My Lightning Tracker app and the BOM website to monitor lightning strikes.

The club's emergency evacuation siren will be used to suspend play.

IMMEDIATE STOP: One 10-second note of siren.

RESUME PLAY: Two 10-second notes of siren.

When the siren has sounded to stop play, all golfers must leave the golf course immediately.

Golf balls must be left in position (can be marked but must stay where it is) and be played when play resumes.

If play is suspended for more than 30 minutes, the clubhouse audio will be used to inform players that play will resume.

Two-tee starts

When lightning prohibits play, each tee time that is unable to be started will be abandoned. If no rounds have begun by 8:45am, the morning field will be abandoned, and play will start with the beginning of the afternoon field at 11:25am.

Players in the morning field are welcome to book a later tee time if available.

If morning players are on course when a lightning delay is called, they must cease their round and return to the clubhouse. When play resumes, those groups that can continue to the turn before 11:15am may finish their round.

Players who cannot make the 11:15am cut-off may finish the nine holes they are on, and their round will be classed as a "No Score – Approved".

For players not finishing the 18 holes, the competition fee will be refunded.

When lightning conditions impact the afternoon round, any round unable to be completed will be cancelled and a "No Score – Approved" will be recorded for the players and their competition fee will be refunded.

Single-tee start

When lightning prohibits the start of play or delays play, the tee time of each group unable to start by its designated tee time will be abandoned.

When play can resume, the respective tee time will correlate with the actual time. That is, if play resumes at 9:20am, the 9:20am tee time will play from the first tee. If a member's tee time is abandoned because of lightning, members are encouraged to book a later tee time if available.

Strong Wind Policy

If the pro shop staff and/or club captain considers that, for any reason, the course is not in a playable condition or that there are circumstances that render the proper playing of the game impossible, they may order a temporary suspension of play or cancel all scores for the round.

Members are advised and reminded of the dangers of limbs falling from trees on days of extreme winds (50 km/h or more).

Members are advised to be aware of the forecast of strong winds and give consideration to their own personal safety while on the course.

If the wind speed and gusts on course using the club's weather station exceeds 75km/h, the competition of the day will be suspended until the wind speeds have dropped below 75km/h.

The wind speed will be monitored by pro shop staff.

Fog Policy

Where fog is present and visibility reduced so that the 17th green is not visible from the pro shop, play must be suspended.

For those on course already, the cessation of play will be signalled with the emergency warning system.

IMMEDIATE STOP: One 10-second note of siren.

RESUME PLAY: Two 10-second notes of siren.

No player shall begin their round until the suspension of play has been lifted.

Once the fog has lifted and visibility returned to at least the level stated above, the pro shop staff or club captain may direct play be resumed, again signalled by the club's emergency siren system.

Two-tee starts

When fog prohibits play, each tee time that is unable to be started will be abandoned. If no rounds have begun by 8:45am, the morning field will be abandoned, and play will start with the beginning of the afternoon field at 11:25am.

Players in the morning field are welcome to book a later tee time if available.

If morning players are on course when a fog delay is called, they must cease their round and return to the clubhouse. When play resumes, those groups that can continue to the turn before 11:15am may finish their round.

Players who cannot make the 11:15am cut-off may finish the nine holes they are on, and their round will be classed as a "No Score – Approved".

For players not finishing the 18 holes, the competition fee will be refunded.

When fog conditions impact the afternoon round, any round unable to be completed will be cancelled and a "No Score – Approved" will be recorded for the players and their competition fee will be refunded.

Single-tee start

When fog prohibits the start of play or delays play, the tee time of each group unable to start by its designated tee time will be abandoned.

When play can resume, the respective tee time will correlate with the actual time. That is, if play resumes at 9:20am, the 9:20am tee time will play from the first tee. If a member's tee time is abandoned because of fog, members are encouraged to book a later tee time if available.

NB: Work on the course may continue while play is suspended if the course superintendent determines it is safe to do so.

Portarlington Golf Club's Extreme Weather Policy

Approved by: The Board

Date: 26th August 2024

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EST. 1909