

RETURN TO PLAYING GOLF - PHASE 1 (Covid-19)

At long last we now have news that the Scottish Government has decided that golf can be played once again, but initially not in the way that we are normally all accustomed to.

The date for golf to start again is now Friday 29th May 2020. (SUBJECT TO FINAL CONFIRMATION FROM THE FIRST MINISTER ON 28th MAY 2020)

We must take into consideration the health and wellbeing of all our members and staff so strict adherence to social distancing guidelines must always be applied to keep everyone safe. Social distancing applies whether in the car park, clubhouse or out on the course.

It must be understood and accepted by members that the return to golf is at this time for members only and is for social and health benefits. Currently there are no plans for any competitive golf to be arranged at the facility for the immediate future. We will monitor this in line with government advice.

At this stage visitors will not be permitted on to the course. Available tee times will be for members only and must be pre booked online or by calling the golf reception.

On reopening we would expect a high volume of bookings. In order to prepare for this (if you haven't already done so) please register for online bookings via our BRS app or from a home PC. We cannot guarantee that someone will always be available to answer the telephone. BRS will be available for online bookings from Thursday 28th May.

We will not accept members turning up expecting to play without prior reservation of a tee time.

*As you will appreciate, there will be a significant demand on tee times when golf returns and we ask members to be mindful of others and only play on limited occasions each week in order that there are sufficient tee times to go around. If you can play mainly on weekdays it would be good to then allow tee times at the weekend for those who are still currently working Monday to Friday.

Initially the tee sheet will entail a 12-minute gap between tee times and tee times are restricted to a maximum of 1 or 2 players.

Slow play should not become an issue with 12-minute tee time intervals but if someone catches you up, do the decent thing and let them through.

Please see below a set of procedures that we have prepared for Elmwood Golf, which fully complies with the Industry guidance and which **MUST** be adhered to by all. Failure to comply may result in serious repercussions, both to the facility and to the member. There will be no room for complacency, and we must ensure that we follow this guidance at all times.

Further information can be found by clicking on the link below or cut/paste into your browser:

<https://www.pga.info/media/2778/opening-plan-for-golf-guidance-document.pdf>

Members are asked to be mindful of the travel distance guidance detailed by the Scottish Government for outdoor leisure and exercise.

This is hopefully the first step on the road back to better times and a normal golf experience, where we can once again enjoy our usual golf routines and banter and also welcome back our guests and visitors. However, for the time being, let's just have fun being back out on the course and play within the restrictions that we have to adhere to.

Golf buggies - we only have 4 buggies available per day. Buggies must be pre booked and special preference will be given to individuals with medical conditions and/or disabilities. Buggies will only be able to go out once per day. Under no circumstances have buggies to be shared unless by people from the same household. If not from the same household then strictly one person per buggy. Buggies will be sanitised after each use and prior to being released again the following day.

There will be no ball washers available. If your ball is dirty, then use another one.

The clubhouse restaurant, bar and annex will remain closed for the foreseeable future and access to reception, toilets and locker rooms will be restricted to a maximum of 2 people at any one time. Please prepare yourself in advance before arriving at the golf course.

If the tee sheet is busy late arrivals will not be allowed onto the course.

***Please Note** that the Clubhouse and locker rooms will unfortunately require to remain closed until further notice. We will however, allow access to the locker rooms to allow members to retrieve clubs etc when they arrive to play. However, once retrieved they will require to be kept at home until such times as we can allow the locker rooms to be used again.

We ask members to bear with us through these testing times and work hopefully towards a return to more "normal" circumstances.

COVID 19 - RETURN TO PLAYING GOLF FOLLOWING LOCKDOWN

The following are the requirements that we must all comply with:-

1. COURSE SET UP:

All rakes have been removed. On leaving a bunker, please make good the surface as best you can with either your foot or a club (just like it used to be)

All benches and bins have been removed

All other removable items have been removed, except the stakes defining areas of the course, which can be treated as immovable obstructions.

Flagsticks are in place but must not be touched and new hole cups have been introduced which prevents the ball from falling below the surface of the putting green and can be easily retrieved by handling the ball only.

2. BEFORE THE ROUND:

Please Note that play is only allowed in singles or 2 ball games either with another household member or with a non-household member. Initially no 3 or 4 ball games are permitted.

ALL play shall be by booking only, using the Club's on-line booking system, which shall be open from Thursday 28th May, or by phoning the golf reception after the 28th May. The booking system is being adjusted to allow tee bookings from 08.30 until 18.00 with no play allowed either before or after these times. There will be no "turn up and play" allowed and NO STARTING FROM 9TH TEE

3. ARRIVAL AND WAITING TO PLAY:

When arriving, please ensure that you arrive no sooner than 15 minutes before your tee time and park with safe distances between vehicles and do not exit the vehicle until it's time to get ready to play. If car park is

full, please use red chipped area on main drive.

Given that there should only be 2 or 3 groups around, the car park will be your “waiting room” before progressing to check in at reception. The reception will have social distancing measures in place and will allow a maximum of two golfers in at a time. Please comply with the distancing and hand hygiene measures in use at the reception.

The clubhouse building will have a one-way system in place. On checking in, if you need to use the W.C. turn left and exit by the east golfers’ door. If no access required continue through to annex and exit by patio door turning left.

4. DURING THE ROUND:

Please make sure that during your round that the 2-metre distance is maintained at all times. This is particularly important when on teeing the ground and on the putting Green. When teeing off, walking the course, searching for balls, putting on the green. At all times please maintain the 2-metre social distance rule.

As noted earlier, with no rakes available at bunkers, on exiting a bunker, please make good the surface with your foot or a golf club. On the basis that there is no competitive golf being played, you are encouraged to agree with your playing partner that preferred lies are good in bunkers.

The flagstick must not be touched and again, you are encouraged to agree with your playing partner, that short putts can be “given”.

When in doubt, play a provisional ball – returning to where you played your last shot is not allowed.

You must not join up to make 3 or 4 ball groups while on the course.

5. AFTER THE ROUND:

On completion of the round you should exit the course to the left, short of the 18th green after finishing the 18th hole and make your way to the car park via the road and creating a one-way system for entering and leaving the course.

After the round, social distancing is essential. You should leave the course and club facility immediately with no gatherings around the club or in the car park.

We hope the above makes sense. The last thing we want to do is sound heavy handed but it’s vitally important that we are prepared for opening and once open, fully comply to keep our customers and staff safe and well.

We look forward to welcoming you back.

With best regards

The Elmwood Golf Team