

Wells Golf Club - Lightning Policy

1.0 Wells Golf Club Board and Management team consider the safety of its Staff, Members and Guests the top priority during inclement weather, and are committed to keeping all safe whilst participating in activities on and around the golf course.

2.0 Severe weather conditions can be a safety risk and can present itself without warning. If there is a risk of lightning play MUST be discontinued. Wells Golf Club are not responsible for the safety of any golfer on the course and it is therefore your responsibility to remove yourself from any situation, which you deem dangerous. Players should stop play and seek shelter any time they believe lightning threatens them, even if a signal has not been heard.

3.0 The pro shop will assist on the assessment of the conditions for players by ensuring they are kept informed about daily weather conditions through on line weather reports, the placement of a daily weather advisory notice in the Pro Shop and by maintaining observation on days when such reports indicate the risk of thunder and lightning in the Wells area.

4.0 Should the Pro Shop deem conditions are becoming unacceptable and present an potential risk, they shall signal closure of the course by sounding the klaxon (three long blasts). In the event of the Pro Shop being unmanned or unavailable then a member of the Board, one of the Club Captains or the Head Green Keeper shall make that decision.

5.0 If you see lightning or hear the klaxon (**3 long blasts**) the following will apply:

- Do not continue to play golf and do not seek shelter under trees. Trees do not protect you from lightning.
- Where play is automatically suspended on the sound of the klaxon, a player may not override the Policy decision to leave the course.
- Players should stop play and seek shelter any time they believe lightning threatens them, even if the klaxon has not been sounded.
- Players shall, where safely possible, place a tee beneath their ball to mark its location before seeking shelter and to identify it as being in a discontinued match or competition.

6.0 The relevant R&A rule of golf is Rule 6-8, 'Discontinuing Play', and this applies to all competitions and matches where there is a risk of lightning. A player is entitled to discontinue play if he or she believes there is a danger from lightning. Although bad weather in itself is not a good reason for discontinuing play, bad weather accompanied by lightning, or the very real risk of lightning, most certainly is.

7.0 Common sense dictates that play in these circumstances must be discontinued in the interests of safety. Even if the klaxon is not sounded and the player honestly believes that there is a real risk of danger from lightning, then he or she is entitled to proceed under the provisions of Rule 6-8 and discontinue play.

8.0 Where play has been suspended due to lightning, when the danger has passed (approx. 20 minutes after the last lightning strike), **1 long blast** of the Klaxon will indicate that it is safe to return. Play must be resumed where it was discontinued, even if this means resumption occurs on a subsequent day.

9.0 We insist that all players adhere to the lightning policy. Failure to do so is at your own risk and Wells Golf Club accept no responsibility from Members or Guests who fail to cooperate with any decision to suspend play and close the course.