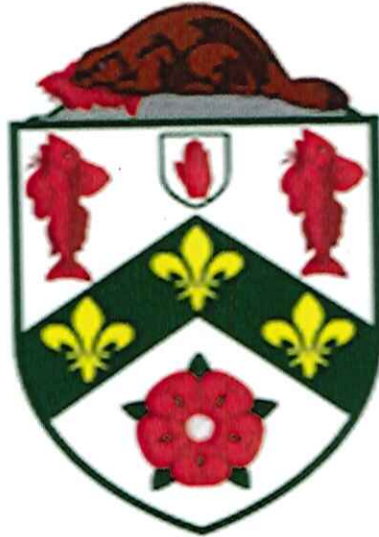


# COURSE RISK ASSESSMENT



## **STINCHCOMBE HILL GOLF CLUB DURSLEY.**

This risk assessment should be reviewed when there is any change to the golf course requiring a revision to this risk assessment; new information available about risks or control measures; results of checks that indicate control measures are no longer effective; changes to key personnel; or any other aspects requiring a review of the system

# **GREENS SAFETY SCHEME AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

## **Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club**

### **1. Purpose and Scope of the Assessment**

#### **Purpose:**

The management of health and safety within the golf course in order to minimise the risk of accidents, through the development of safe procedures of operation, for all aspects of golf.

The risk assessment describes the means by which this will be achieved.

#### **All greens employees and managers**

Will be responsible for ensuring that health and safety is at the core of all activities undertaken at the golf club.

#### **All golfers, members and visitors**

Will be responsible for ensuring they do not endanger themselves, other golfers or other members of the public (for instance, using footpaths / rights of way adjacent to the golf course) whilst present at Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club.

#### **Scope of this risk assessment:**

- Identify and assess sources of risk responsible person - secretary/manager
- Prepare a written scheme for the prevention and/or control of the risk responsible person - secretary/manager
- Implement, manage, and monitor all precautions taken responsible person - secretary/manager
- Keep accurate records of all precaution's responsible person - secretary/manager
- Appoint a person to take managerial responsibility responsible person - secretary/manager

The risk assessment shall be reviewed regularly, or if any of the following apply:

- Any change to the golf course requiring a review of this risk assessment.
- New information available about risks or control measures.
- Results of checks that indicate control measures are no longer effective.
- Changes to key personnel.
- Any other changes affecting the validity of the risk assessment.

#### **Management structure:**

The Responsible Person unless otherwise stated is the Club Secretary/Manager or head greenkeeper. This person, together with the Greenkeeper in Charge, is responsible for ensuring that greens personnel are competent and suitably trained to carry out the duties as prescribed during the day-to-day operation of the golf club. The Responsible Person delegates the day-to-day operation of the written scheme to the Greenkeeper in Charge (the Competent Person).

The Competent Person(s) is appointed to take day to day responsibility for managing risks during the day-to-day activities being carried out. They should be able to identify if any constraints prevent the safe carrying out of tasks.

### **Training:**

Training records are to be kept in the Health and Safety Risk Assessment and will be made readily available for audit inspections.

All responsible and competent persons should receive basic training supplemented by regular refresher training in the safe use of equipment and the safe means of working.

### **Communication:**

Communication is a key factor in the risk assessment process. The risks need to be identified and communicated to the management committee and all SHGC employees, to allow the prioritisation of remedial actions to control the identified risks.

The Competent Person takes day-to-day responsibility for controlling any identified risk from the day-to-day operations, and must have sufficient authority, competence and knowledge of the golf course and its operation, to ensure all operational procedures are carried out in a timely and effective manner.

The Competent Person appointed to implement the control measures and strategies should be suitably informed, instructed and trained and their suitability assessed. Regular refresher training should be given, and the Competent Person should have a clear understanding of their role and the overall health and safety management structure and policies of the golf club.

### **Precautions in place to prevent or minimise risk:**

Pre-Planned Maintenance and Inspection

Site Monitoring

General Health and Safety Recommendations

### **When remedial action should be taken:**

Remedial action to be taken in the event that the scheme is shown not to be effective, including control scheme reviews and any modifications made when there is:

- Any change to the golf course requiring a review of this risk assessment.
- New information available about risks or control measures.
- Results of checks that indicate control measures are no longer effective.
- Changes to key personnel.
- Any other changes affecting the validity of the risk assessment.

## **2. AIM**

### **2.1 Compliance with the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974**

The risk assessment should be carried out in order to allow the management committee to provide the Responsible Person with the necessary site information for arranging all health and safety action plans.

The risk assessment should not only concentrate on the physical condition of the associated greens/golfing equipment, the 'hardware', but must also assess any risk generated by the

management and execution of the systems and controls in place for the operation of that equipment.

This risk assessment has also considered conditions that may arise outside the normal day-to-day running of SHGC which may result in increased risk. These include:

1. Maintenance
2. Breakdown
3. Abnormal operation
4. Commissioning
5. Unusual circumstances.

The risk assessment must be reviewed regularly or whenever there is a reason to believe that the original assessment may no longer be valid. This may be due to any of the following reasons:

- Any change to the golf course requiring a review of this risk assessment.
- New information available about risks or control measures.
- Results of checks that indicate control measures are no longer effective.
- Changes to key personnel.
- Any other changes affecting the validity of the risk assessment.

The risk assessment should be regarded as a working document and updated as required.

### **3. GOLF COURSE RISK ASSESSMENT**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This assessment considers issues relating to the 18-hole golf course. It does not consider any risks that may be present in or around the clubhouse (including the car park), greenkeepers' compound, and practice area. Risks associated with the work carried out by the greens staff are considered as part of a separate risk assessment.

Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club accepts no liability for any damage caused by golfers to vehicles parked in the club car park.

#### **3.2 General course topography**

The golf course is generally relatively level, being sited on the top of a hill rise. There are some, occasionally steep inclines within the golf course, extending over short distances, namely the walk to the 6<sup>th</sup> Tee, the 9<sup>th</sup> Tee and the 10<sup>th</sup> championship Tee.

Access to the course is via (motorised vehicle) the Broadway and the Whiteway. With designated car parking at the front of the golf club. Disabled parking bays are not highlighted, but disabled parking can be provided by contacting the club prior to arrival.

A public no through road runs through the course bordering the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> holes golfers are expected to wait until the road is clear prior to playing any shot.

#### **3.3 Public access**

There is a non-surfaced path / right of way crossing the course known as the Cotswold Way with designated wooden signposts offering direction. Golfers will wait for the areas to be cleared prior to attempting to play a ball. (3<sup>rd</sup> fairway, alongside 5<sup>th</sup> Fairway, in front of 7<sup>th</sup> tee, 17<sup>th</sup> fairway)

There is an unsurfaced footpath running across the course from the public car park (adjacent to the third tee fairway) across the 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> fairways, golfers will only play if the area is clear and safe.

There is a public used path running around the perimeter of the course and courtesy to all users should be given by playing members and visitors.

### **3.4 Staff working on the course**

Staff working on the course have priority at all times and golfers should not play shots if staff are within range.

### **3.5 Use of trolleys, electric trolleys and motorised (electric) buggies**

Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club have a buggy policy covering all aspects of buggy control, this document can be reviewed in the club health and safety manual or by request prior to any buggy being used.

SHGC owns or leases some buggies for use by members, guests, and visitors subject to availability and payment of the appropriate fee. Members, guests, and visitors may bring their own single seat golf buggies provided they are a recognised model. SHGC reserves the right to refuse the use of a buggy that it deems unsafe, and/or that its use would too great a risk to the long-term condition of the course

SHGC does not have a buggy path and there are some slopes that can become dangerously slippery. Other areas are prone to waterlogging or excessive wear.

The Course Manager and his staff are responsible for determining the condition of the course in respect of buggy use when weather conditions challenge the safety of users or would be to the detriment of the golf course. To this effect, and to recognise the need to provide the maximum course availability for all users, SHGC will operate a traffic light system for buggy use:

- Green – normal summer use.
- Amber - buggies may be used only by Essential Buggy Users (see next section).
- Red – no buggies allowed

Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club policy document states that “the use of motorised buggies will be the responsibility of the Greenkeeper in Charge, or his/her representative.”

Each buggy driver should be asked to read the list of instructions in the use of the buggy before being allowed to drive on the course. Any member or visitor who wishes to use their personally owned buggy will be required to follow a similar procedure.

Buggies owned and operated by members must be subject to the provision of a copy of an insurance certificate providing 3<sup>rd</sup> party public liability, initially on making the request to use their buggy and subsequently each year when renewing their membership. This copy will be kept on file in the clubhouse office.

Electric trolleys are allowed on the course but note that during periods of persistent wet weather the course may become unsuitable for trolley use. To this effect electric trolleys may be the subject of a temporary banning order. This will be on the advice and guidance of the head greenkeeper.

### 3.6 Reduced visibility weather conditions

When conditions are foggy, any closure of the course will be at the discretion of the Greenkeeper in Charge, if present, or the Club Secretary / Manager or his/her representative. A sign will be placed at the first tee advising 'Course Closed'. The course will only be reopened when the weather conditions have lifted such that visibility is adequate for golf to be played. If play has started and inclement weather arrives, players are required to stop playing golf immediately. The club will make provision and the klaxon will be sounded once (long blast) signalling that the course is closed

-Add PB

### 3.7 Lightning

In the event of lightning, or the imminent threat of lightning, the course will be closed by the Club Secretary / Manager or his/her representative. The klaxon will be sounded once (long blast) signalling that the course is closed. A tour of the course will be carried out to ensure that all players have left the course. Continuing to play at your own risk is not an option.

**Where there is insufficient time to evacuate the course and there is a threat of lightning, golfers and others are advised to comply with the following:**

- keep as low down as possible, seek refuge in the nearest bunker or hollow.
- leave golf equipment and stand at a distance from this.
- DO NOT shelter under trees or go to high ground.
- Switch off your mobile phone and do not use it.
- DO NOT put up your umbrella.

The golf course will be reopened by the Club Secretary / Manager or his/her representative by the sounding of the klaxon, three times once the risk of lightning has passed.

### 3.8 Paths

Where paths are available on the golf course, all golfers (walking or using a buggy) must use these.

### 3.9 Painted white lines / G.U.R. (ground under repair)

Where temporary white lines are painted on the golf course, these are provided to ensure the safety of all golfers and to assist the greens staff in maintaining or repairing damaged or vulnerable areas of the course. Golfers with buggies and trolleys must remain outside these lines. Hoof marks on any part of the course, damaged or protected areas enclosed by white lines, tractor marks on closely mown areas are GUR.

### 3.10 Footwear

All golfers must ensure they are wearing golf shoes that are adequate and suitable for the ground and weather conditions on the day of play.

### 3.11 Golfers' insurance

All golfers (members and visitors) are advised to take out adequate 3<sup>rd</sup> party insurance to provide cover for liability at law for damages payable in respect of:

- Death or bodily injury
- Loss of or damage to material property.

As of July 2019, England Golf provides £10m personal liability insurance as part of the member's affiliation to England Golf, in the event that they are held liable for injuring someone or for causing serious property damage at a golf club.

### 3.12 Safety notices

All users of the golf course should be made aware of the full risk assessment which is available to be read on/in the:

- Club website
- General office
- Men's locker room
- Ladies' locker room

**Please take the time to familiarise yourself with its content.**

Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club wants everyone to enjoy their round of golf but accepts no liability for any accident or damage caused by not following the safety notices and guidelines whilst playing the course.

Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

### 3.13 Responsibilities

Maintaining this Risk Assessment is the responsibility of the club manager with guidance from the designated responsible person.

### 3.14 Overview of Risk Assessment definitions

The risk assessment will address the following:

- Generic risks whilst playing golf
- Risks from carrying clubs and using pull and motorised trolleys in dry and wet conditions
- General hazards within the golf course.

#### GENERIC RISKS WHILST PLAYING GOLF:

RISK DESCRIPTION	GRADE OF RISK	RECOMMENDATION	GRADE OF RISK
Being struck by a golf ball hit offline by a golfer playing on another part of the golf course	High	All players must remain alert at all times to the behaviour of nearby players.  Players who have played an offline shot must immediately shout a warning to all surrounding players that the shot has been struck.	Medium

Being struck by a golf ball hit by a playing partner	High	<p>Non-playing partner(s) must not advance in front of the shot being played without watching the shot being played.</p> <p>Players who have played a shot towards a playing partner(s) must immediately shout a warning to all surrounding players that the shot has been struck.</p>	Medium
Being struck by a golf ball played by a golfer in the following group	Medium	Following golfers must ensure that those in front have advanced further than they can hit their best shot.	Low
Being struck by the swinging club of a playing partner	Medium	Players to stand at least 2m from the arc of the swinging club.	Low
Tripping on uneven, sloping or slippery ground	Medium	<p>Obvious tripping hazards should be removed by fellow golfers and green keeping staff.</p> <p>Sloping areas which become wet and are lacking in thick grass cover should be roped off by green keeping staff to prevent entry by players.</p> <p>Extra care should be taken by all golfers encountering these conditions (Including ensuring they are wearing proper footwear)</p>	Low
Tripping over a fellow golfer's playing equipment, trolley or buggy	Low	Care should be taken by all golfers on the course.	Low
Slipping when on sloping ground, e.g. the sides of bunkers, especially when ground conditions are wet	High	<p>Enter and exit bunkers from the shallowest sides wherever possible.</p> <p>Trolleys and buggies must be kept at least 5m from such slopes in all conditions.</p>	Medium
Steep slopes on the sides of raised tee boxes (4 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> 14 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> ) can be slippery when wet	High	Use the steps in place to ascend tee boxes	Low
Slopes within the course may become slippery when wet	Medium-high	<p>Treat slopes with care, particularly when conditions are wet.</p> <p>Ensure golf shoes are adequately spiked and suitable for the ground and weather conditions on the day of play.</p>	Medium-low
Looking for lost golf balls on slopes	Medium - high	Extreme care should be taken if looking for golf balls hit into steep slope areas around the 5 <sup>th</sup> fairway, 6 <sup>th</sup> fairway.	Medium -low



## **GENERAL HAZARDS PRESENT ON OR NEAR THE GOLF COURSE**

The information below identifies the main hazards that members and visitors may encounter when playing, practicing on or walking the golf course. This is not a comprehensive list as adverse weather and unforeseen human, or other actions may create new and unforeseen hazards. Being aware of this information will reduce the risk to yourself and others. The Golf Club Management may deem it necessary to close the course if risks to members and the public are considered excessive.

### **All golfers must adhere to the following:**

1. Be aware of and adopt golfing etiquette, do not play a shot when others are in range; if an error of judgement is made in terms of distance or direction, shout **"FORE"**!
2. Be aware of the behaviour and location of other golfers and members of the public, particularly on holes running alongside the Cotswold Way.
3. Be aware of your playing partners, do not walk in front of them when they are playing a shot, or stand in range of the arc of their golf club.
4. Be aware of greens staff when these are working on the course, give them time to move away before playing a shot. If they are unaware of your presence, attract their attention as best you can (noting they may be wearing ear defenders so may not hear you easily).
5. Many holes on the golf course run in parallel, and one hole plays across another holes (10<sup>th</sup> Championship T); if unsure where your ball will finish shout **"FORE"**! as a precaution. See also the hole by hole notes for more information.

### **Hazards associated with trees on the golf course**

Some of the trees on the golf course may contain a lot of dead wood and may shed branches at any time, particularly in strong winds. Avoid walking close to trees in windy weather as branches can fall unexpectedly.

### **Hazards associated with animal damage**

Rabbits and other animals can dig holes in areas of the golf course, be aware of the risk of stepping into a hole, particularly in areas of long grass; this may result in sprained or broken limbs.

### **Hazards associated with chemicals used on the course**

Avoid oral contact with anything that has come into contact with the golf course, especially if signs "Caution Spraying" are in place. The golf course will at times have traces of fertiliser, fungicides/herbicides, and other chemicals, as well as animal waste.

### **Hazards associated with dead animals**

Any dead animals found on the course should not be handled but reported to a member of staff, who will take action to address this.

### **Hazards associated with adverse weather**

Additional care is required when moving round the golf course in wet, cold or icy conditions. During hot weather, ensure you remain well hydrated by having a bottled drink with you,

wear a hat and apply sunscreen.

Players must take responsibility for their own safety on the course when it is open for play.

**If the klaxon sounds, you must leave the course for your own safety.**

### **Hazards associated with slopes and banks**

Wear the correct footwear on the course, having regard for the weather / ground conditions.

Take care when going up or down slopes; use steps where these are provided; avoid taking buggies and trollies up or down steep slopes, especially if an alternative route is available.

Do not brake suddenly when driving buggies on slopes, especially in wet conditions.

Enter and exit bunkers from low points.

### **PRACTICING**

This is limited to the designated areas –practice ground (adjacent to the 18<sup>th</sup> hole); practice net and practice putting green (behind the club house). Teaching area to the side of the 1<sup>st</sup> Fairway should be reserved for the teaching professional.

### **ACCIDENTS / OBSERVED DANGERS AND HAZARDS**

Please report all accidents to the golf club office (by phone, 01453 542015 if the office is unmanned) or a member of staff.

Any dangers noticed such as wasps' nests, unsafe branches of trees, rabbit holes should also be reported as soon as possible (as above).

### **HOLE BY HOLE ANALYSIS**

Abbreviations: OOB –out of bounds

#### **HOLE1.**

OOB to the left of the fairway (Cotswold Way) Risk of wayward shots played to the left hitting people walking

Vehicles using the roadway to the public car park have priority, do not play until the road is clear.

#### **HOLE 2.**

Walkers on a designated path coming towards the Tee box, steep slope to left of fairway

OOB to the right of the fairway (this denotes the practice ground)

Road hazard runs to the right of the fairway

#### **HOLE 3.**

Risk of wayward shots hitting walkers using the Cotswold Way

Road Hazard runs to the left of the fairway,

Car Parking to the left of the fairway, short steep slope (two tier fairway)

#### **HOLE 4.**

Risk of shots hitting walkers using the designated pathway across the 4<sup>th</sup> fairway

#### **HOLE 5.**

Steep slope to the left of the fairway

Be aware of walkers using the designated pathway to the right of the fairway

#### **HOLE 6.**

Steep slope to the left of the fairway.

Be aware of walkers using the footpath underneath the fairway, and towards the green. Be

aware of walkers coming down the Cotswold Way behind the green from the 7<sup>th</sup> Tee area.

**HOLE 7**

Be aware when playing from the tee that there may be members of the public using the Cotswold Way path

Note, OOB to the left of the fairway

Be aware when approaching the green that there may be people teeing off on the 8<sup>th</sup> hole (to the left); wait for them to finish teeing off before walking to the green

**HOLE 8**

No obvious dangers but please note that the 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Fairways run parallel, and people Teeing off from 10<sup>th</sup> Championship Tee may be hitting balls into your general direction

**HOLE 9**

Wayward tee shots may hit golfers playing the 13<sup>th</sup> Tee and golfers looking to play short mis-hit drives on the 13<sup>th</sup> championship fairway, overhit Tee shots may pose dangers to golfers playing off the 10<sup>th</sup> yellow and ladies red Tee

**HOLE 10**

Steeply sloping ground to the right of the tee box; (steps to 10<sup>th</sup> yellow tee and slope back to white championship tee) be careful in wet / slippery conditions

**HOLE 11**

When teeing off be aware of golfers on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> green and 8<sup>th</sup> Tee areas, and also take note of the blind spot for golfers walking from 12<sup>th</sup> Tee area, and be aware of people playing the 12<sup>th</sup> hole from the Tee when approaching the 11<sup>th</sup> green

**HOLE 12**

Walkers using designated pathways to the front of the Tee area have priority, please wait until clear.

A gentle slope leads down to the men's 12<sup>th</sup> tee box from the area of the 11<sup>th</sup> green, be careful in wet or slippery conditions

**HOLE 13**

Ensure there is no one on the designated pathway crossing the 13<sup>th</sup> fairway. Be aware of walkers using the designated pathway from the area behind the 13<sup>th</sup> Tee.

Have regard for golfers playing the 12<sup>th</sup> hole, even though you have right of way –they may not be aware of this.

Be aware of the road surface and occasional vehicles at the rear of the 13<sup>th</sup> green.

**HOLE 14**

Note that the slope to the gents Tee area may be slippery in wet conditions.

Be aware of cyclists, cars, and people walking along the road surface in front of the gents Tee area

and be careful when walking down the fairway as the gentle slope may be slippery in wet conditions.

**HOLE 15**

Wayward tee shots may hit golfers on the 16<sup>th</sup> Tee area.

Wait on the fairway level with the 16<sup>th</sup> tee if golfers are playing from this tee box, do not approach the green until they have finished teeing off.

**HOLE 16**

Wayward tee shots may hit golfers playing the 15<sup>th</sup> green (to the right)

A designated pathway runs below the left-hand rough area, this may come into play and all golfers should take care prior to playing off any of the 16<sup>th</sup> Tees.

**HOLE 17**

Be aware of walkers using the designated pathway across this hole, walkers may also be

present to the left-hand side of this fairway and care should be exercised, all golfers are encouraged to wait until all walkers are clear of the designated pathways.

OOB to the left-hand side of this fairway, and wayward Tee shots may pose danger to golfers playing the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, any wayward Tee shots hit should be accompanied by a warning shout.

**HOLE 18**

OOB in the area of the clubhouse and to the right of the fairway (protecting the practice area)

Be aware of golfers who have just left the 18<sup>th</sup> green.