



Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club

Buggy Policy

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Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgment Form

2. Introduction & Background

Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club (SHGC) has a duty of care to all users of the golf course. The purpose of this document is to establish a standard for the safe operation of any buggies authorised and operated within the confines of Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club. Due to disability, some members, visitors, and guests may not be able to play golf without the help provided by a motorised ride-on golf buggy (buggy). The document also sets down the criteria to be applied and conditions to be met when SHGC considers applications for buggy use.

This document is based upon and adapted from a template kindly provided by The National Golf Clubs' Advisory Association (NGCAA) www.ngcaa.co.uk

3. Qualifications & Criteria for Buggy Use

Use of a buggy will not be allowed unless authorised by SHGC.

Any person who operates a buggy on the golf course is deemed, by so doing, to have the knowledge, training, and skill to safely operate the vehicle and be fully accountable for their actions and the consequences thereof. The safe operation of buggies on the course requires conscientious application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by this policy.

Buggies must be operated in accordance with the requirements of this policy and users must have completed and returned the Golf Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgment Form.

In order that these conditions can in practice be met, the SHGC committee / Manager or their approved nominee must whenever possible be given prior notice of a requirement to use a buggy. SHGC reserves the right to refuse or revoke permission if the conditions stipulated are not complied with or have not been by the user in the past.

4. Course Topography Considerations & Restrictions

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 use.
- Amber - buggies may be used only by Essential Buggy Users (see next section).
- Red – No buggies allowed (Red Status Short Course available for Essential Buggy Users)

The buggy status is set by the Course Manager or his deputy and reviewed daily.

5. Essential Buggy Users

This section applies only to Essential Buggy Users, who are those members, visitors and guests who have a permanent incapacity to play golf unless able to use a buggy. For the purposes of this policy, evidence of this would be a Blue Badge or equivalent certification.

When the buggy status is Amber

- Only lightweight single buggies may be used.
- Buggies must not be taken onto or across the fairway or within 2 metres of any tee, green (including temporary greens) or bunker. They should be driven in the semi-rough, treating it as a buggy path, stopping level with the ball and walking to it to play.
- Buggies must not be taken up to the 6th, 7th or 9th tees, or the white 10th tee.
- After playing the 5th, the buggy should be parked near the 6th winter tee (to the right of the 5th temporary green). The 6th hole may be omitted. The 7th may be played from the 6th winter tee.
- The 9th hole may be omitted.

When the buggy status is Red

In order to provide members with limited mobility the ability to play some golf when the course is a safety risk to buggy users, a short course utilising safe routes.

- The short course is played in the following order:- 1, 2, 3, 18 (see Map)
- Only lightweight single seater buggies are allowed.
- Buggies must not be taken onto or across the fairway or within 2 metres of any tee, green (including temporary greens) or bunkers.
- They should be driven in the semi rough and utilise the access road, treating it as a buggy path, stopping level with the ball and walking to it to play.

Further restrictions may set by the Course Manager at any time, depending on the prevailing conditions.

To support this policy, the Club maintains some single seater buggies which may be used free of charge, subject to availability, when buggy status is Green or Amber.

If the status is Green and all single buggies are in use, a double buggy may be made available if other bookings allow, again free of charge. A reduced Essential Buggy User hire rate applies in other cases.

6. Buggy Availability

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.

7. Golf Buggy Safety Policy

The Club has a duty of care to its employees and all users of the golf course. Caution and care must be shown by all users of buggies. The Club must also ensure adequate safe means of access for all golfers as well as those given permission to use buggies. Moreover, the Club must ensure the safety of golfers who do not use buggies but who might be at risk from a mechanically defective buggy or its careless use. The Club's duty of care also applies to any members of the public who may be on the course.

To assist the safe employment of ride-on buggies all users shall comply with the following conditions:

1. Buggies must be operated with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of pedestrians. Pedestrians must always be afforded the right-of-way.
2. Any signs and instructions employed on the course, or supplied in writing or verbally by staff, to warn buggy riders of potential danger areas or areas prohibited because of potential unacceptable wear and tear to the course must always be followed.
3. 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 or footpaths.
4. No buggy will be operated at more than 15km per hour. Under Amber conditions speed must be reduced and turns widened.
5. Buggies shall only be used between dawn and dusk.
6. Buggies must be operated in compliance with the common rules on the road regardless of where they are operated.
7. The law that applies to driving on the public highway with respect to alcohol and drugs must be followed when using a buggy.

8. Conditions of Use

In addition to the conditions of the Safety Policy above:

1. Buggies may only be used by those authorised by SHGC so to do.
2. The SHGC committee or Manager has the authority to immediately prohibit any individual from using or being carried on a ride-on buggy. Authorisation will be withdrawn in cases of serious or repeated disregard of the conditions set by this policy. Application for reinstatement of permission can only be made to SHGC.
3. Users will be responsible at all times for the security of the ignition keys to buggies supplied to them by SHGC whilst under the care and/or control of the User. Users are not allowed to remove the buggy from SHGC property.
4. SHGC has no responsibility for ensuring the safe operation of buggies on or beyond the confines of the course and the Club car-parks other than those operated by their servants or

agents. SHGC will accept no responsibility for any loss or damage caused to any property other than that arising from the negligent use of a buggy by their servants or agents.

9. Golf Buggy Safe Working Practice

a) Before Use

All users must sign a Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form (appended to this document) before they are allowed to drive a buggy at SHGC. This can be signed and sent back to us before the day of play or on the day itself.

All users must ensure that they are familiar with the buggy controls and the constraints on buggy use.

b) During Use

Users must:

1. Not exceed the maximum number of people the buggy is designed to carry; all must be authorised by SHGC.
2. Not remove the buggy from the course or Club car park,
3. Always remain seated with hands, feet and head kept inside the buggy whilst the buggy is in motion.
4. Keep the buggy at least 2 metres away from tees, greens, and bunkers.
5. When buggy status is Amber, keep to the conditions of Section 5.
6. Adhere to any additional restrictions that may be in place on the day.
7. Not drive the buggy in tight circles or into the deep rough.
8. Check the area behind the buggy before reversing.
9. Apply the parking brake before leaving the buggy.
10. Always consider the terrain, existing vehicular and pedestrian traffic as well as environmental factors that may affect their ability to operate the buggy safely.
11. Drive the buggy no faster than the terrain and safety considerations allow.
12. Not drive the buggy directly up, down, or across sharp slopes to avoid the risk of it tipping over.
13. Execute all turns at reduced speeds.
14. Avoid sudden stops or changes of direction to prevent loss of control or damage to grass.
15. Take extra care in strong winds or when the course is wet or frosted.

c) After Use

Unless advised otherwise, the buggy should be parked opposite the main door of the clubhouse, with the parking brake engaged and the operating key turned to the off position.

Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club

Buggy Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form

All users must complete this form prior to using a Golf Buggy (“buggy”)

Any person who accepts the privilege of operating a buggy at Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club are required, in so doing, to have the knowledge, training and skill to operate the buggy safely and shall be fully accountable for their actions and consequences thereof.

The safe operation of buggies requires responsible application and adherence to the minimum standard of care prescribed by this policy.

Name of User:

Address:

- I have read and understand the terms and conditions of Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club’s Buggy Policy, which includes the Conditions of Use and Buggy Safe Working Practice and will adhere to them.
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions related to this Practice and Policy
- I agree to indemnify Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club against all claims costs and demands made against Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club arising out of or in connection with my use of the buggy.

(Tick if applicable) I confirm I am an Essential Buggy User and that I have provided a copy of my Blue Badge or equivalent evidence, if requested by the Club.

(Tick if applicable) I wish this acknowledgement to remain in force for one year and will notify SHGC if any of the above statements no longer apply.

Signature of user:

Date:

Users of golf buggies do so at their own risk. Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club will not accept any liability for any loss or damage to the golf buggy or any other property other than arising from the negligence of the Club or any of its servants or agents.