

# REDDISH VALE GOLF CLUB

## Health & Safety on the golf course for the guidance of players

### INTRODUCTION

The following provides an overview assessment of the risks identified for players when using the golf course at Reddish Vale Golf Club. It is the responsibility of all players to ensure that they are adequately insured to cover whatever may arise.

Mobile Phones must be switched off on the course. Their use is not permitted on the course except to summon help in the case of an emergency. Call the Professional's Shop on 0161 480 2359 or the Emergency Services on 999 (the post code is SK5 7EE) and inform the Secretary or the event Organiser or Professional of any such incidents (Clubhouse;- 01614802359)).

PLAYERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE AWARE AT ALL TIMES OF DANGER TO OTHERS AND TO THEMSELVES; ALL ACCIDENTS MUST BE REPORTED.

CARE MUST BE TAKEN AT ALL TIMES TO AVOID ACCIDENTS OR INJURIES TO ONESELF AND TO OTHER PLAYERS, OFFICIALS OR STAFF.

FIRST AID BOXES ARE LOCATED IN THE CLUB HOUSE

All accidents MUST be reported to the Secretary or the Competition Official or Professional on duty for entry into the Accident Book in due course with all details

### THE COURSE

The Golf Course Risk Assessment has been carried out on a hole-by-hole basis. As a general rule, players should not strike a golf ball when there is the risk of endangering another player or member of the Green Staff.

Particular attention should be paid to the possibility of balls from other areas of the golf course that may stray into your vicinity, notice should also be taken that our golf course covers many acres on which there is a number of slipping and tripping hazards but in all cases if care is taken these risks are completely avoidable. Players should be particularly aware of these in wet or cold conditions.

Players are advised that golf shoes with well maintained cleats help with avoiding slips; they also help your golf!

At all times players should take care when walking up or down banks, steps and bridges. Players are advised not to retrieve balls from the river or any water on the course. Our golf course is home to various forms of wildlife, the vast majority of which are harmless, however Players should also be aware that there are a number of insects that bite.

Players should also ensure that they are prepared for reasonable eventualities on the course including extreme weather (cold, wet, windy or hot) and protect themselves appropriately. Remember you could be on the course for 4 or 5 hours.

**Advice on safe play ;-** Golfers should avoid striking balls to land in areas occupied by other golfers, green staff and any other persons on the course, practice areas, or adjoining roads and property. Particular care should be taken on those holes with blind shots. In the event of playing a miss-hit shot, the players and/or person(s) with whom he/she is playing should give the loudest possible audible warning to the person(s) likely to be in danger.

**Blind tee shots** Holes 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, (players are advised not to drive from the tee if they think that they can reach the group of players ahead of them. When playing holes 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> the green is not visible from the tee / fairway so care should be taken when playing balls. When playing holes 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, care should be taken when driving as the landing area is not fully visible from the tee. When on hole 14<sup>th</sup> tee, there is not much separation of the fairway where it meets the 15<sup>th</sup> fairway and care should be taken driving off. Also when crossing this point players on 15<sup>th</sup> should check players are not driving from the 14<sup>th</sup> tee. When playing 16<sup>th</sup> (care should be taken when walking back from the green to the 17<sup>th</sup> tee, players should walk back close to the trees on the right hand side going back, players driving off 16<sup>th</sup> tee should avoid driving at players walking back from the green. when walking off the 16<sup>th</sup> tee care should be taken on the tee for balls from the 17<sup>th</sup> tee and priority should be given to any players who are on the 17<sup>th</sup> tee which is situated just to the left when walking across there line. When playing 18<sup>th</sup> be aware of balls from the 6<sup>th</sup> tee, allow players from 6<sup>th</sup> tee to come down the hill before playing second shots to green on 18<sup>th</sup> and extra care to check the green is clear should be allowed

**Stream:** A stream comes into play on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> holes. In some cases the sides of the stream are steep and slippery and extra care should be taken.

**River:** The river features on many holes. The water in the river is deep and there is some undercutting of banks you are advised to walk well away from the edge. Players must not under any circumstances enter the river and care must be taken in retrieving balls from near the sides.

**Bridges (Slip Hazard):** Bridge coverings are liable to be slippery when wet, particularly on the, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> holes. Extra care should be taken on these area`s  
The bridge and steps down from 14<sup>th</sup> tee to fairway must be used with extra care, walk slowly and use handrail when able. An alternative route to 14<sup>th</sup> fairway from tees is available by walking as per the buggy route back to the 13<sup>th</sup> fairway turn right along the edge of 15<sup>th</sup> fairway and on you bottom level of 14<sup>th</sup> hole and fairway

**Buggies:** Extra care should be taken when using bridges and only a bridge which is wide enough should be used to cross any of the streams. Extra care should be taken to drive slowly at all times Full details of the Club buggy policy and Risk Assessment regarding buggy safety is available and must be used and understood by all buggy users.

**Adjacent Fairways:** A deviant ball can carry to adjacent fairways on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> hole.

**Steps:** There are wooden sleeper steps to the tees on the following holes – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, on which extra care should be taken when playing in wet or in icy conditions.

**Out of Bounds:** Players are requested to report to either the Secretary or the Golf Professional when they hit a ball out of bounds on the left of the 1<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> holes.

**Toilets:** There are Ladies and Gents serviced toilets situated in the Clubhouse only

**The Green Keeper's Compound:** This is situated behind the clubhouse. This is a working area and players are not permitted to enter either of the two maintenance sheds under any circumstances and extra care and vigilance should be taken in this location because of machinery being moved.

**The Practice Area:** Players are asked to exercise care when using and approaching the Practice area to the right of the 7<sup>th</sup> fairway. You should play away from the main course when the 7<sup>th</sup> hole is in use

#### **Other Health and Safety Considerations:**

**Fertiliser and Insecticides etc. on the ground:** Do not lick golf balls or fingers. A notice will advise of any chemicals that have been used. Players are advised to take heed of the warnings and protect themselves.

**FOG & ICE** The fact that the course has not been officially closed does not warrant that it is fit for play. Players have a duty of care not to behave in such a way that others may be injured by their actions. They also have a duty of care not to injure themselves. If conditions are foggy and you are unable to see where the ball is likely to land or ground conditions are such that it is impossible to judge how far the ball is likely to travel then...**DO NOT PLAY**. Playing in such conditions is dangerous and players do so at their own risk.

**Footwear:** Players should ensure they are wearing suitable footwear; spikes should be in good repair and players are advised not to use soft cleats in winter months as they have a tendency not to grip so well in frosty conditions – players have a responsibility to themselves to take extra care, avoid slipping on slopes, steps, bridges and other awkward places.

**Animal Holes:** These should be reported to the Head greens man, Secretary or Professional.

**Green Keeper Staff:** Green Keeping staff have priority at all times. Players should make sure that they are aware of your presence before you play your shot. The Green Keeping staff are instructed to signal to players when it is safe to play.

#### **SUSPENSION OF PLAY**

Players must protect themselves in Health and Safety matters especially should there be a danger from lightning when play must stop immediately. Rule 6-8 of the Rules of Golf makes it quite clear that a player is entitled to discontinue play if the player believes that there is a danger from lightning.

All players must adhere to the following Suspension of Play procedure.

### **Dangerous Circumstances**

A suspension of play for a dangerous situation (e.g. lightening) will be signalled by a prolonged single blast on the klaxon operated from the Clubhouse. During a Competition, the Competition Organiser or professional is responsible for sounding the klaxon. However, even if the klaxon is not sounded and the players believes that there is real risk of, or danger from, lightning then the player is entitled to proceed under the provision of Rule 6-8 and discontinue play.

During casual play, players have to proceed under Rule 6-8. This makes it the player's own responsibility to discontinue play when, in his/her opinion, a danger from lightening exists. It is unreasonable to expect the Club to monitor the course each and every day.

If the klaxon has been sounded, then a player is not entitled to override that decision and continue play. When the klaxon has been sounded for play to be suspended, players must discontinue play immediately. Every effort will be made to ensure the warning is sounded with sufficient time to allow for all competitors, caddies and spectators to evacuate the course prior to an electric storm striking the course.

Upon the signal being given, all players, caddies and spectators must comply with these conditions.

### **Play Abandoned**

If play is abandoned, this situation will be signalled by a pre longed single blast on the klaxon. There will be no further play and all players must leave the course immediately.

### **Evacuation of the Course**

It may be that there is sufficient time to allow for all players, caddies, and spectators to evacuate the course without the need to shelter. That being the case, the Competition Organiser or pro will make the fact known and request that competitors leave the course.

Where there is not sufficient time to evacuate the course players should comply with the following procedure:

KEEP AS LOW AS POSSIBLE AND IDEALLY CROUCH DOWN IN THE NEAREST BUNKER.  
LEAVE YOUR GOLF EQUIPMENT WHERE IT IS AND STAND AWAY FROM IT.  
MARK THE POSITION OF YOUR GOLF BALL.

### **DO NOT:**

- stand near golf clubs or trolleys
- stand under any overhead power lines
- seek cover in the wooden shelters wherever they are located unless the shelter is fully enclosed and is properly earthed (there are shelters on the course, none of which are fully enclosed nor are they properly earthed
- shelter under trees or on high ground
- make your way off the course or to shelters by walking under trees if possible
- use a mobile phone – make sure it is switched off
- put up your umbrella under any circumstances

### **RESUMPTION OF PLAY**

Players will be notified when it is safe to resume play by; ONE SHORT BLASTS on the klaxon. No player shall resume play until the klaxon has sounded.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Darkness, rain, fog and ice: During inclement weather, the fact that the course has not been officially closed does not warrant that it is fit for play. Therefore, members and visitors should themselves determine whether they consider it safe to play. Players have a duty of care to behave in such a way that others may not be injured by their actions. They also have a duty of care to ensure that they do not injure themselves. All players play at their own risk and should do nothing to jeopardise the safety of themselves or others.

**USE OF BUGGIES**

The use of motorised ride-on buggies is permitted only by prior application to the Secretary. All buggies must be operated in accordance with our Golf Buggy Safety Policy (available on request).

Ambulance 999	Police 999	Pro. shop 0161 480 2359
Secretary's Office 0161 480 2359 option 2	Clubhouse 0161 480 2359 option 5	