

Lightning Policy

The Whitecraigs Golf Club considers the safety of its Members and Guests as paramount during inclement weather. Weather reports, including all adverse weather warnings and local conditions prevailing monitored.

In the event that it is unsafe to continue play, a member of staff from the Professional Shop will have the power to suspend play by sounding 3 short blasts from the klaxon at the 5th, 11th and 17th tee alerting all golfers to make their way off the course and into the clubhouse as quickly as possible. If the situation were to occur after Professional Shop working hours, the Klaxon will be sounded by the Club Master.

1. If there is a risk of lightning, play MUST be discontinued. It is the golfer's responsibility to remove themselves from any situation they deem as dangerous.

1.1 If you see lightning or hear the klaxon (three short blasts from three different areas on the course) the following steps should be taken:

- Stop play and immediately proceed to the clubhouse.
- Do not seek shelter under trees, as trees do not protect you from lightning.
- Do not use golf umbrellas as they can conduct lightning. They should be taken down and placed on your golf bag.
- During competitions, if there is a lightning risk, play will be suspended and players must leave the course.
- Golfers should stop play and proceed to the clubhouse if they believe there is a legitimate threat of lightning, even if the klaxon has not been sounded.
- Golf Buggies do not give protection from Lightning.

1.2 While the Club will take every precaution to ensure the safety of players during a period of lightning, it is incumbent upon golfers to discontinue play when lightning occurs or is considered an immediate risk. It is not always possible to monitor conditions on the entire course and golfers have a duty of care both to themselves and others.

2. Rule 6-8 Discontinuing Play

2.1 Rule 6-8, as stated in the R&A Rules of Golf, will apply to all competitions and matches where there is a risk of lightning. The rules of golf are straightforward when lightning is a risk. Rule 6-8 indicates that a player is entitled to discontinue play if he or she believes there is 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. 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.

2.2 Resumption of Play – Where play has been suspended due to lightning, play must be resumed where it was discontinued, even if resumption occurs on a subsequent day. (see Rule 6-8 R&A Rules of Golf.) When the danger has passed, one long blast of the klaxon will indicate that it is safe to return to the course and resume play.

3. General

3. Members must comply with the lightning policy Any failure to do so will be so at your own risk and The Whitecraigs Golf Club accepts no liability for any Member or Guest who fails to co-operate with any decision to suspend play and close the course.

3.2 It is not the responsibility of staff to retrieve clubs, equipment or trolleys from the course during a lightning storm where play has been suspended on the grounds of safety.