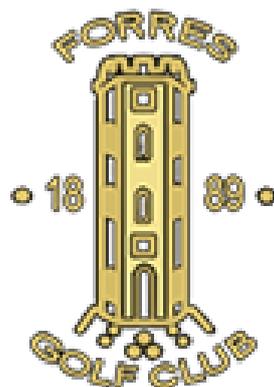




PROTOCOL FOR THE
RE-INTRODUCTION OF GOLF

FORRES GOLF CLUB





Contents

1. Introduction

2. Access

3. Booking & Arrival

4. Check in & Shop

5. On the Course

6. Practice Area

7. Putting Green and Practice Net

8. Juniors

9. Post Round

10. Staff

11. Reporting Concerns



1. Introduction

The following protocol for Forres Golf Club staff and golfers has been prepared by the General Manager in conjunction with the Forres Golf Course and Golf Club Committees following consultation with the relevant governing bodies and partners. The protocol outlines a number of measures which will be implemented at Forres Golf Club.

The objective of the protocol is to safeguard our staff and golfers following the reopening of the golf course and practice facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. As one of the first sports allowed to resume there is a major responsibility on all golf clubs and golfers to ensure our sport is conducted in a safe and responsible manner. Full cooperation and adherence to the measures outlined in this protocol are absolutely essential and non negotiable.

The measures and provisions included within this protocol are under constant review and will be subject to updated advice from the government, health authorities and our governing body, Scottish Golf.

2. Access

The golf course will initially be limited to non competitive golf only for Members, Members Guests and Visitors. Competitions will be introduced in line with updated advice from the government, health authorities, our governing body and following the successful implementation of the protocol by golfers at Forres Golf Club.

In order to access the golf course the following conditions must be met:

- Golfers must not show any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Golfers must observe social distancing rules at all times in the car park, clubhouse and on the golf course.
- Golfers must have a pre-reserved tee time.
- Golfers must sign in at the golf shop.
- Golfers should not otherwise be required to be self-isolating.
- Golfers should follow travel restrictions outlined by the Scottish Government.

3. Booking & Arrival

To ensure that we comply with social distancing the following conditions will be implemented with regards to arrival and booking tee times:

- Tee times available daily between 08:00 and 19:00 only in 10 minute intervals.
- Member tee times are limited to a maximum of three ball games only.
- Visitors tee times are limited to a maximum of two ball games only.
- All tee times must not include players from more than 2 households regardless of group size.
- Tee times are booked in advance online or by telephone.
- Members will only be allowed to book one tee time per day and up to 4 days in advance only.
- Visitors will only be allowed to book one tee time per day and up to 3 days in advance to allow members priority to booking tee times.
- Arrive no more than 15 minutes before your reserved tee time.
- When parking try best to avoid parking directly next to another car.
- Change golf attire and arrange all golf equipment at your car.
- Do not leave your car or the immediate area surrounding until ready to check in.
- The locker rooms will remain closed.
- Junior golfers must be accompanied by an adult.

4. Check-in & Shop

The golf shop will be staffed between the opening hours of 08:00 and 19:00. Check in is essential to maintain records of the tee sheet in line with contact tracing guidelines. In order to manage our golf shop operation the following procedures will be in place:

- Check in at the golf shop is mandatory for all golfers.
- Hand sanitiser will be available to wash hands before entry to the golf shop.
- Access to the golf shop for golfers only.
- No more than one golfer will be permitted at any time in the golf shop.
- Card and members account payments only. No cash will be accepted at the golf shop.
- Social distancing floor markings must be followed.
- Golfers restricted to spending no more than 10 minutes in the golf shop.
- Trolleys and buggies will be sanitised by staff and available for single person hire only.

5. On The Course

When you are on the golf course it is crucially important to follow the protocol and social distancing measures. At this point the staff cannot monitor the protocol and it is up to the golfers to ensure safety throughout the game. To assist golfers the following measures will be in place:

- All golf course furniture has been removed.
- The toilet on the golf course will remain closed.
- Bunker rakes have been removed. Golfers are to smooth the sand with feet and preferred lies will be in operation.
- Flag sticks are to remain in the hole at all times and must not be touched.
- The hole cups have been upturned to allow easy ball retrieval without touching the flag stick.
- Golfers must not share food, drink or any golf equipment.
- If a ball is lost do not return to play from the previous position.
- Golfers must refrain from handshakes, high fives or any form of physical contact.
- Golfers are asked to take all litter home with them.

6. Practice Area

As our practice area is remote from our main golf operation it is important that all golfers wishing to use this facility continue to follow our protocol. We are content that following the successful opening of the golf course that we can now re introduce our practice area using the below restrictions and guidelines:

- Practice area is open only between 08:00 and 18:00.
- A maximum of two golfers may use the practice area at one time.
- Golfers must have a pre-reserved practice time. Practice times are available to book through the golf shop.
- Practice times will be restricted to 1 hour.
- Golfers must sign in at the golf shop before and after practice for use of the practice area.
- Golfers must only use the designated practice bays only.
- Golfers must use their own golf balls.
- Golfers are encouraged to use the hand sanitiser stations before and after practice.
- The Cluny Course route will remain closed for the time being. Please note the further guidance for junior golfers.
- Only one golfer should practice on the short game areas at a time.

7. Putting Green and Practice Net

With a realistic view of the return to competitive golf in the coming weeks we feel it is important that golfers have access to our pre game practice facilities. Both our putting green and practice net will be opened again with the below restrictions and guidelines in place.

- The Putting Green and Practice Net are open to golfers with a pre-reserved tee time only.
- Golfers will have access to the putting green and practice net before their pre-reserved tee time only.
- Golfers will enter the practice green using the steps at the putting green and will exit the practice green using the path towards the golf shop and first tee.
- Golfers are encouraged to use the hand sanitiser stations before and after using the putting green or practice net.
- Golfers should not congregate around the putting green or practice net when waiting for access.

8. Juniors

With the current restrictions it proved difficult to introduce the opening of the Cluny course for our juniors at this stage. With this in mind we have introduced junior dedicated tee times so that the future golfers of Forres Golf Club can get back on our course in a relaxed environment at a level which suits their individual ability. Our new Blue Tee “Beginner” course has been opened with the below guidelines and restrictions in place:

- Junior golfers who are not ready to play from the red or yellow tees are encouraged to use the new blue “Beginner” tees on the golf course.
- Tee times have been reserved for junior play on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 16:00 – 17:00.
- Junior golfers can book the reserved times for junior play by contacting the golf shop or booking online.
- Juniors playing the Blue “Beginner” course will have the opportunity to play the first 4 holes twice to increase the number of holes played while avoiding crossing on to other holes of the course where other golfers may be playing.
- Juniors may play in two or three balls.
- Junior Member tee times are limited to a maximum of three ball games only.
- Junior Visitor tee times are limited to a maximum of three ball games only.

9. Post Round or Practice

Following a game of golf or practice it is still important to remember your responsibilities with regards to the protocol and social distancing measures introduced at the golf club. Despite the game of golf being completed the risks and dangers of COVID-19 remain. Following a round of golf the following measures will be in place:

- The compressor for the shoe cleaner will be turned off at all times and the shoe cleaner brushes will be removed.
- Golfers must return immediately to their car.
- Golfers must change all golf attire and arrange all golf equipment at their car.
- Golfers must not leave the immediate area surrounding their car until ready to leave.
- The clubhouse will remain closed.
- The locker room will remain closed.
- Hand sanitiser will be available for all golfers with a dispenser positioned on the end of the clubhouse building.
- Golfers are asked to please avoid cleaning their golf shoes and equipment in the carpark.
- Should a golfer show any symptoms of COVID-19 following a round of golf it is their responsibility to notify the golf club management immediately.

10. Staff

While a golfer will only interact with as little as one member of staff during a round of golf it is important to remember that the members of staff will interact with many golfers on any given day. In order to ensure the safety of our staff at Forres Golf Club the following measures will be in place:

- Staff will be provided with PPE to wear on site.
- Hand sanitiser and cleaning products are readily available for all members of staff.
- Golfers are not to approach any member of the greenkeeping team on the golf course.
- Protective screens have been installed at the service desk in the golf shop.
- All work areas and contact points will be cleaned regularly.
- Staff will be briefed on the importance of hand hygiene and cleaning procedures upon returning to work.
- A risk assessment and method statement has been completed by the committee and signed by general manager and head greenkeeper.

11. Reporting Concerns

Should any golfer have concerns surrounding the protocol or would like to report any health, COVID19 or protocol related queries please contact the golf club manager, Sean Blacklaw, at the earliest possible opportunity.

Contact details are detailed below:

Email: manager@forresgolfclub.co.uk

Telephone: 01309 672949

At this time golfers are asked that they do not enter the golf shop to raise concerns or report any queries under any circumstances.

For the time being the defibrillator has been moved from the clubhouse to the golf shop. Please contact the golf shop immediately should you require access to the defibrillator.

Should any of the measures outlined in the protocol document be breached by a golfer there is the possibility that the lockdown measure may be re-introduced. The management and committee's of Forres Golf Club will be policing the protocol measures and any breaches of the document could result in suspension of membership of the golf club.