



# **THEYDON BOIS GOLF CLUB**

## **GOLF BUGGY POLICY**

### **Use of Ride-on Buggies on the Golf Course**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this document is to establish a standard for the safe operation of all ride-on buggies ('Buggies') operated on the course at Theydon Bois Golf Club ('The Club').

The document also sets down the criteria to be applied and conditions to be met for their use.

#### **PROVISION OF BUGGIES**

With the Club's agreement the Club Professional will make available a number of two-seater buggies during the period April to October inclusive and for a longer period if weather conditions allow. The buggies are available for hire and can be booked in advance by telephoning the Professional Shop. Please note that if a disabled golfer requests the use of a buggy, this cannot be guaranteed, but the booking system in place may give priority to disabled golfers. 'Disability' is defined as being within the meaning of the definition contained in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') and where appropriate, this policy related to those people with a Disability who cannot play golf without the use of a buggy.

Neither the Club nor the Club Professional are obliged to provide buggies for the use of members and visitors (for example, during the winter months), but the Club allows members and visitors to use their own buggies on the course subject to them obtaining, in advance, the permission of The Club to do so and meeting the requirements set out in this document (see further details below).

In normal conditions there is no restriction on the use of ride on buggies other than in certain areas of the course. However, in certain circumstances, it may be necessary to restrict their use.

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 this 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.

Ride-on buggies must be operated in accordance with this policy and the Guidelines set out in

the Buggy Users' Guide, a copy of which is attached.

## **EXCEPTIONAL WEATHER CONDITIONS**

In exceptional weather conditions, the Head Greenkeeper may determine that unrestricted use of Buggies will or is likely to cause significant damage to the course and/or may be dangerous/present a risk of injury to the user or others.

In these circumstances, buggy restrictions will apply.

Buggies will then be permitted, **but only to those people who have a disability as defined under the Equality Act 2010 ('The Act')**. Such persons must have lodged with the Club Manager a Medical Certificate in a specified form (see Appendix A) signed by a registered General Practitioner or Consultant confirming that they have a disability as defined by the Act and that they are that they are unable to play golf without the use of a buggy.

This policy is subject to review and amendment by the Board of Directors on a regular basis.

## **BUGGY SAFETY**

The Club has a duty of care to all users of the golf course. The topography of certain areas of the course is such that the user of a Buggy must show caution and prudence. It is also necessary for The Club to provide adequately safe means of access for all golfers including those given permission to use buggies. Moreover, the Club has to ensure the safety of golfers who do not wish to use Buggies but who might be at risk from a mechanically defective ride-on buggy or its careless use. This duty of care also applies to members of the public using any rights of way.

To assist the safe employment of ride-on buggies all potential users (members and visitors) shall comply with the following conditions:

- Buggies on Theydon Bois Golf Club property are only for the use of members, green fee-paying visitors, entrants in competitions or other persons so authorised by either the Manager or the Professional.
- Buggies must be operated with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of pedestrians. Pedestrians must be afforded the right-of-way at all times.
- The signs and instructions employed on the course to warn electric trolley users and buggy riders of potential danger areas or, areas forbidden to Buggies because of concerns about danger or, the potential to cause unacceptable wear and tear to the course, must be followed at all times.
- 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, ramps or pavements.
- Buggy operators will be responsible for the security of the buggy on the property owned by The Club.
- Theydon Bois Golf Club has no responsibility for ensuring the safe operation of Buggies on or beyond the confines of the course, the club car parks and property other than those operated by their servants or agents. The Club will accept no

responsibility for any loss or damage caused to any property other than that arising from the negligent use of a ride-on buggy by their servants or agents.

- Buggies shall be used only between dawn and dusk.
- Buggies must be operated in compliance with the common` rules of the road` regardless of whether they are operated on pavements or roadways.
- Operators must stop the buggy at blind intersections and public road crossings and proceed with caution.
- The consumption of alcohol and/or the improper use of drugs when using a buggy is strictly prohibited.
- If in the opinion of The Manager or Professional a person is in an unfit condition to use a buggy; she/he has the authority to immediately prohibit any such person from using or being carried on a ride-on buggy. A written report will be submitted to the Board of Directors. Application for reinstatement of permission can only be made to the Board of Directors.

#### **GOLF BUGGY SAFE WORKING PRACTICE AND CONDITIONS OF USE**

- Buggy operators must not be under the influence of alcoholic drinks or drugs.
- Never allow children to drive the Buggy
- Persons driving a buggy must be over 18 years of age.
- Persons using a privately-owned buggy must have valid third-party insurance cover.

#### **Before Use**

- All operators of Buggies, including privately owned buggies, must sign a Safety Policy Acknowledgement form before they are allowed to drive the buggy.
- A Buggy shall only be used for the number of occupants it was designed to carry and only by people who are authorised to use one.

#### **During Use**

- Do not move off until properly seated
- Always remain seated and hold on while the vehicle is in motion
- Hands, feet and head must be kept inside the buggy at all times while the vehicle is in motion
- Buggies must use permanent or temporary buggy paths where provided.
- The vehicle must be used to progress the game and must not be driven up and down excessively, e.g., when looking for golf balls.
- The vehicle must not be driven on tees, greens or the slopes leading up to them.
- The vehicle must not be used within 2 metres of any green, bunker, ditch, or slopes leading to them except when using the designated bridges.
- Extra care must be taken when crossing the roads between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> (and 18<sup>th</sup>) holes and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> holes
- Check the area behind the vehicle before reversing
- Always consider the terrain, existing vehicular and pedestrian traffic conditions as well as environmental factors that may affect your ability to operate the vehicle safely

- To avoid tipping over, drive the buggy straight up and down slopes, not across them. Do not drive buggies on severe slopes.
- All turns must be executed at reduced speeds
- Avoid sudden stops or changes of direction that may result in loss of control.
- Drive at a speed appropriate for the conditions and terrain especially when the course is wet and muddy.
- Brake gently and progressively.

**All accidents must be reported to the club professional or the club manager and properly recorded in the accident book.**

Theydon Bois Golf Club  
Updated January 2022

**THEYDON BOIS GOLF CLUB**  
**CONDITIONS OF BUGGY HIRE**

Please read this document carefully before hiring a buggy.

- I agree to hire the buggy for use at Theydon Bois Golf Club Only
- I confirm that I am over the age of 18, hold a full UK Driving Licence and am not currently disqualified from driving.
- I agree that I am responsible during the period of hire for any and all costs or claims arising out of damage caused to the buggy, third party, any property or sustained by the hire. (if in doubt, you are advised to obtain appropriate insurance cover prior to the period of hire.)
- I agree that should any damage occur due to negligence whilst hiring the buggy I will be responsible for any of the costs incurred. The £10 key deposit will not be refunded if any damage is incurred or the key is lost. The £10 will be offset against any claim.
- Please note that Theydon Bois Golf Club/ Kevin Delaney Golf Ltd will not accept responsibility or liability for any injury or damage sustained or caused by the hire during the hire.
- I understand that during the hire the buggy should be driven carefully and responsibly at all times. It is prohibited to drive across greens, tees and brake aggressively. You must follow all signage that is on the course and not go into prohibited areas of the course with the buggy.
- A failure to comply with these conditions of hire will result all parties in the group being asked to leave the golf course by the Duty Manager/ Head Greenkeeper/ Professional staff. The decision will be final and no refund will be offered. The golf club may decide on further course of action should it be deemed necessary.

**Users with Medical Certificates only**

- I possess and have produced a copy of certified evidence that I have a disability within the meaning of the Disability Discrimination Act that prevents me from playing golf without the use of a Buggy.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Buggy Number \_\_\_\_\_

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## **THEYDON BOIS GOLF CLUB BUGGY USER GUIDE**

Thank you for hiring one of our buggies.

Please take the time to read and put into action the following guidelines for use:

- Buggies are not to be driven into the car park except by staff. Please ask for help from a staff member if you need to take the buggy to your car
- Buggies must not be driven on the path in front of the clubhouse veranda
- Be aware of the variations in terrain on the course. Always seek to drive on flat ground where possible
- One passenger and one driver per buggy
- Clubs are to be stowed at the rear of the buggy per the buggy design. Do not pull a push/pull trolley along with you (we have seen it done at other clubs!)
- Don't race with other buggies
- Take particular care driving towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> green and en route to the fourth tee. Look out for balls struck from the 4<sup>th</sup> tee.
- Take particular care when driving towards the 10<sup>th</sup> tee. Look out for balls struck from the 10<sup>th</sup> tee.
- Avoid driving close to bunkers
- Always keep a look out for and obey signs
- Drive at a safe speed at all times
- Take extra care when crossing bridges
- Do not drive buggies into forest areas
- Take extra care when driving close to or underneath trees. Avoid this if possible
- Do not drive between gaps in hedges (particularly on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> holes)
- Do not drive close to ditches – keep at a reasonable distance at all times
- Drive only on paths where directed to do so by signs. This is particularly important on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> holes
- There is a road to cross en route to the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole and en route to the 12<sup>th</sup> hole. It is not a busy road but please take care when crossing it
- There is a busy road to cross en route to the 15<sup>th</sup> hole and from the 17<sup>th</sup> green to the 18<sup>th</sup> hole. Please take extreme caution. We advise that the buggy passenger gets out of the buggy to assist the driver with crossing. Do not take any chances.
- Don't try to push/lift the buggies. They are very heavy.
- If you encounter any difficulties contact the pro shop on 01992 812460.
- Hopefully you've reached this far. Have a great time and thanks again!

**Appendix A**

**THEYDON BOIS GOLF CLUB**

**MEDICAL CERTIFICATE**

**To be completed by the member of Theydon Bois Golf Club:**

I, (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

of (Address) \_\_\_\_\_

request the use of a ride on golf buggy on the course at all times at Theydon Bois Golf Club because I am unable to play golf without using one.

**Please note any expense incurred for completion of this form by a doctor is the responsibility of the member and not Theydon Bois Golf Club.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**To be completed by the members' medical representative:**

Please complete the following in order to give us your opinion as to why the above-named player is unable to play golf without the use of a ride on buggy.

**Principal diagnosis:**

**Symptoms experienced by player:**

**Likely duration of condition:**

I, (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

of Address / practice stamp certify that I have assessed the above-named person, and that I am of the opinion that they have a disability within the meaning of section 6 of the Equality Act 2010. He/she is suffering from a long term mental or physical impairment which substantially affects their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. As a result of this disability my patient is unable to play golf without the use of a ride-on buggy.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_