

OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR THE RE-OPENING OF Horsham Golf (HG) GOLF FACILITIES

This document contains operational guidance for professional staff and consumers at Horsham Golf engaged in the management and use of the golf courses, club and driving range. It will be adopted when government COVID-19 restrictions permit the re-opening of golf facilities and these guidelines may be updated depending on further government guidance or amended social distancing measures.

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the closure of this golf facilities. At some point this restriction will be lifted, most likely on a phased basis, and Horsham Golf will open for business once again.

It will be essential that when golf re-opens at Horsham Golf it is in a responsible and safe way and that government advice and policy are adhered to at all times.

The purpose of this document is to outline advice and guidance across a number of areas so that HG golf course, driving range, car park and appropriate facilities can be prepared for re-opening when the government advises that it is safe to do so.

This guidance has been prepared taking reference to advice from the key stakeholders in the golf industry, with a view to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all golfers and staff members alike.

The guidance in this document is split into a number of areas:

- 1. Starting a phased return to play advice for customers**
- 2. Driving Range use**
- 3. Golf Coaching**
- 4. Club fitting sessions**

1. STARTING A PHASED RETURN TO PLAY ADVICE FOR CUSTOMERS

BEFORE ARRIVAL, SITE USE & TOILETS

When governments and authorities give express consent, play may be able to begin in a regulated way. Looking ahead to this time, we will implement a range of procedures that will allow, as realistically as possible, safe play to take place.

- Play will be managed by the professional staff / starter, players will be reminded of the guidance on social distancing and safe play (see below)
- The shop area will be open for 2 persons at any one time only, please observe site signage
- We will provide disposable gloves and additional hand sanitizers throughout the site
- Please do not attend HG if you have or suspect you may have COVID-19, there are numerous internet sites from which symptoms can be established we recommend. Public Health England. Specifically, do not attend if you have any of the following:
 - Dry Cough
 - Fever
 - Tiredness
- Tee time booking should be done online if at all possible
- We will restrict the number of players in a group to a maximum of 3 initially. This will be reviewed weekly and when safe to do so 4 balls will be reintroduced.
- If hire items are required, this will only be after staff have sanitised handles etc
- Buggies will only be hired on a 'one person' basis and staff will wipe down / sanitise essential areas between each use
- Payments that are necessary to be taken on site (ie can't be taken online) will be done so by contactless methods
- Our Clubhouse will remain shut at this time, so players need only arrive shortly before their tee time (e.g. 10-15 minutes)
- Please do not use the changing facilities at this time, shoes should be changed in the car park. No items should be left in the changing room
- Access to toilet areas will be managed with a 'one way' system to minimise contact, please observe the signage. Entry for male, female and disabled toilets will be via the main front entrance to the changing rooms and exit will be via the back door exiting toward the putting green, internal doors will be propped open to minimise touching handles
- Once your golf has finished please do not spend any unnecessary time on the premises

PLAYING ON THE GOLF COURSE

Playing Golf in the UK Under COVID-19 Restrictions

A. How we will set up the course

- All rakes and ball-retrievers to be removed
- Ball washers and drinking fountains to be covered up
- Benches removed, covered or sign-posted in such a way that players don't touch them
- The half-way house will remain closed however the toilets there will remain open, one person at a time please. Please wash your hands after use
- All other removable items on the course will be removed, except that stakes defining areas of the course can be treated as immovable obstructions
- Flagsticks will remain but should not be touched

- The ball will be stopped from going to the bottom of the hole so it can be retrieved easily without touching any other surface, however the ball will still be able to be 'holed'

B. During the Round

- Golfers are reminded to remain aware of the guidance on social distancing throughout the round, especially on teeing grounds, walks between tees and on the putting green
- Players should avoid touching anything other than their own property including golf balls
- Bunkers will not have rakes please make your best effort to smooth the sand using your club and / or feet
- We will set up a 'one way' system to access the course and leave, access to the Oaks course will be via the car park, exit via the alleyway by the shoe cleaner. Please pay attention to site signage
- Access to the Firs course will be by the via the shop 'one way system' please adhere to site signage

C. Rules of Golf Related Matters and Competitions

Forms of Play and Scoring

- Competition play is not recommended in the initial return period as it is recommended that competition play can involve different groups and should be avoided. We will review this weekly
- Any scoring method should avoid the need to handle or exchange scorecards
- As provided in the Rules of Golf, scorecards can be electronic, if scores can be communicated electronically which could include emailing or texting then scores on this basis can be shared / compared
- Bunkers; there will a temporary local rule allowing preferred lies in bunkers, in light of the absence of rakes, a player may place a ball in the bunker within one club-length of the original spot and not nearer to the hole than that spot
- Golfers are required to leave the flagstick in the hole at all times and not to touch it
- The hole liner (sometimes referred to as the hole 'cup') is to be set in a way that means that all of the ball cannot be below the surface of the putting green, so the ball is considered holed if any part of it is below the surface of the putting green
- To minimise the need to lift the ball from the hole, a ball is holed with the next stroke if it is within 12 inches of the hole (which is just over the length of a standard putter grip). This does not prevent a player in match play conceding a stroke that is outside this length

D. Some possible issues associated with reduced maintenance during lockdown period

- Reduced pace of greens through higher cutting heights
- Higher cutting heights in all / most maintained areas
- Lengthier rough areas, particularly in 'out of play' areas
- Untidy bunkers
- Lack of golf course furniture such as bunker rakes, bins, ball washers, benches
- We will be doing all we can to minimise the 'unusual' nature of the golf course and be working to reintroduce 'normal' maintenance procedures

2. DRIVING RANGE USE

Safe use procedures will include

- Our bays are between 3m / 4.5m apart so use of adjacent bays is judged to be safe, please stay within your bay once you have started practising to allow others to pass behind your bay to access free bays that might be beyond yours
- We will operate a 'one way' system for access to the bays, entry will be via the normal ball dispensing area and stairs, once finished please exit via the far end into the car park
- Range balls will be cleaned between each use with a mild disinfectant included, despite this please avoid touching range balls before hitting
- We will provide disposable gloves and sanitising hand dispensers to use as required
- We will be cleaning the ball dispenser surfaces frequently however the contactless purchase option should be used at all times
- we will be wiping down the display screen regularly, however, please request a screen wipe ahead of your session
- range users should not congregate around screens so as to allow others to pass behind a bay in use
- Multiple use of a bay is limited to 2 players, please from the same family / household

3. GOLF COACHING

Golf coaching will adhere to the following guidance to ensure safety of both customers and professional staff:

- we will promote coaching and playing lessons that takes place outdoors and ideally on the course although social distancing must still be observed
- coaching on the range will observe the 'driving range use' guidance above, coaches will at all times observe the appropriate social distancing guidance.
- If you have to move a player into position, use an alignment stick, which is easy to wipe down with a sanitising wipe before and after the lesson
- Wash hands with soap and water before and after the session, pupils are advised to do the same.
- we will provide sanitising wipes for coach and pupils
- we will promote short game putting coaching sessions that allow the golfers to use their own golf balls, that way they are not sharing equipment that other people have touched

4. CLUB FITTING SESSIONS

Any club fitting sessions carried out will adhere to the following guidance to ensure safety of both customers and professional staff:

- This service will only be offered by prior booking
- Hand sanitiser should be available to customers throughout the session and all customers and fitters will be required to sanitise before fitting
- Club fitting on the range will incorporate the guidance for both 'range use' and 'coaching' 3 and 4 above
- Adherence to social distance will be maintained between the fitter and the customer
- All golf fitting components must be sanitised after every use with a conforming alcohol sanitising wipes before being returned to its storage location
- Particular attention will be given to the sanitising of the club grip and the passing of component clubs between fitter and customer
- Golf balls used in the club fitting will be kept clean to avoid cross-infection between customer and fitter