



Bull Bay Golf Club Adverse Weather Policy

Angus Mackenzie

May 20, 2024

Policy Statement

Bull Bay Golf Club is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all of our members, guests and employees.

To ensure the aims, objectives and values of the Club are met, and all aspects of the law are observed, the following applies to all areas of the Golf Course and includes the practice areas.

1 Introduction

Bad weather may include:

- Thunder and lightning
- Fog
- Heavy precipitation
- Strong winds

The fact that the course has not been officially closed does not warrant that it is fit for play.

Players have a duty not to behave in such a way that others may be injured by their actions. They also have a responsibility not to injure themselves. Golfers must also take steps to ensure their own safety in adverse weather conditions.

When any of the above conditions represent an unacceptable hazard to members, staff or guests, the course will be closed or play suspended. This decision resides with;

- a) The Professional if present.
- b) The most senior Greenkeeper present.
- c) Competitions team (contacted by Shop staff if necessary)
- d) Any available member of the Board of Directors.

2 Thunder, Lightning and the 30/30 Rule

- 30-60 people are struck by lightning each year in Britain, and on average, 3 (5-10%) of these strikes are fatal. Survivors are often left with permanent disability.

- People struck by lightning are predominantly hit before and after the peak of the storm.
- Any player may stop play if they reasonably believe there is danger from lightning, but must report to the Committee as soon as possible.

Rules of Golf - Rule 5.7

- Seeking Shelter
 - Ideally, seek shelter in the clubhouse, keeping clear of wide open spaces and exposed hilltops.
 - If the clubhouse is too far away, your best protection is to leave your clubs and use one of the shelters around the course (3rd tee, 5th tee, 7th tee, 10th tee, 12th tee, 16th tee).
 - *Do not shelter beneath tall or isolated trees.* It has been estimated that one in four people struck by lightning are sheltering under trees.
- The **30/30 rule** provides a good way of ensuring you are sheltering during the most risky parts of the storm.
 - If the flash to bang is 30 seconds in length or less you should seek shelter.
 - Staying inside this shelter is advised until 30 minutes past the last clap of thunder, this ensures relative safety from distant strikes at the beginning of the storm as lightning can travel up to 10 miles. *This will seem like a very long time.*

BBGC thanks Mr P Fitzgerald for his dedication to ensuring that golfers do not shelter under trees.

3 Fog

Players should not play if they cannot see where their ball will land; this implies that visibility should be more than 240 yards. Players must not commence a round from the first tee if the fairway mounds cannot be seen. During a round, if players can clearly see the flags on the five par 3s (approximately 170 yards) then the course is playable. If not, they should inform the Club* and play should be suspended.

Mist - visibility between 1km and 2km.
Fog - visibility 1km or less

It should be noted that reduced visibility due to fog is often very localized and also variable over relatively short periods of time, so it may be sensible to wait up to 15 minutes if this seems to be the case.

Greens Staff

If greens staff are out on the course in conditions of reduced visibility they must make doubly sure that they are wearing adequate Personal Protection Equipment including protective headgear. They should also perform a Risk Assessment and consider undertaking maintenance work elsewhere until conditions improve. This does not imply that the wearing of PPE is optional when conditions are better.

*01407 830960 or members' WhatsApp group

4 *Heavy Rain and/or Strong Winds*

Heavy rain and strong winds are rarely sufficiently severe to endanger golfers, but if the greens or other parts of the course become flooded they may make competition play impossible. Strong winds may cause balls on the green to move. In these circumstances suspension of play or closure of the course may become necessary. If players continue to play after becoming aware that play has been suspended, they will be disqualified from the competition.

5 *Suspension of Play*

If golfers feel that they may be in danger, typically from an approaching thunderstorm, they are strongly encouraged to keep themselves safe by taking shelter even if play has not yet been suspended or the course closed.

Suspension of play will be indicated by **one prolonged note** on an air horn and a back up message on WhatsApp and email. The long note may be repeated near to the 14th green if it is safe to do so. At no time will any employee of the Club be expected to leave the safety of the Clubhouse to sound the air horn if it is not safe.

Players leaving the course for these reasons are encouraged to inform other playing groups of the situation.

Resumption of play will be indicated by **two short notes** on the air horn; this too may be repeated.

6 *Hot Weather*

Excessive heat and the risk of sunburn/heatstroke may also present challenges. Sunburn is common in golfers because exposure is prolonged and there is very little time spent in the shade.

Soft drinks, hats and sunscreen sachets are sold in the shop for golfers who do not have their own to hand. There is a water fountain between the 8th green and 9th tee, also accessible when leaving the 14 green for the 15th tee.

Heatstroke

A player who starts to behave uncharacteristically during hot weather may in fact be suffering from heat exhaustion or heatstroke, in which case they should return to the Clubhouse *without delay* for rehydration, cooling and any necessary first aid or medical assistance. Other symptoms include tiredness, dizziness, headache and nausea/vomiting.

Notes.

1. Hearing protection should be kept in the shop for use by the person sounding the air horn.

Title	Adverse Weather Policy
Author(s)	Angus Mackenzie
Document date	20th May 2024
Version	1
Status	Approved
Next review date	May 2027