



# Belton Park Golf Club

## Course Health & Safety Policy

### **General Statements**

The Health and Safety of all our employees, members, guest, clients, customers, contractors, visitors and members of the public, etc. is of paramount importance to Belton Park Golf Club.

Belton Park Golf Club will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all employees. It will manage its business in such a way and so far as is reasonably practicable that the safety and welfare of persons not employed by Belton Park Golf Club are not exposed to risk.

This document identifies the main hazards that members and visitors to Belton Park Golf Club may encounter. It does not contain a definitive list of hazards, as by the very nature of the game of golf, it is impossible to eliminate risk completely.

All players have a duty of care not to behave in such a way that others may be injured by their actions. Players also have a duty of care not to injure themselves.

It would be unreasonable to expect the Club to monitor the course all day, every day. Therefore, the fact that the course has not been officially closed does not warrant that it is fit to play. All players play at their own risk and should do nothing to jeopardise the safety of themselves or others.

Belton Park Golf Club boasts lovely scenery and wildlife that has no respect for health and safety. There are always dangers associated with animal burrows, ditches and slippery banks. Persons playing the course do so entirely at their own risk.

All accidents and/or incidents must be reported to the General Manager in order that the appropriate documentation may be completed.

## **Adverse Weather**

### **Fog/mist/low cloud**

The club has positioned red posts on holes 1, 5, 10, 13, 16, 19 & 25 approximately 150 yards from the tee. If the posts are not visible from the 1<sup>st</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, or 19<sup>th</sup> tees, under no circumstances may play commence.

If you have begun your round and fog/mist/low cloud falls and you are unable to see these posts or where your ball will land, it is the responsibility of the golfer to suspend play. Play may be resumed when the posts are visible and when you consider it safe to do so.

### **Lightning**

Belton Park Golf Club will, as far as is reasonably practical, monitor when an electrical storm is within range and will suspend play by the sounding of a klaxon.

There may be occasions when;

- monitoring is not operational
- wind conditions dictate that the klaxon is not heard
- the storm approaches from the north or east (ie away from the Clubhouse)

Under such circumstances, rule 6-8 of the Rules of Golf makes it quite clear that a player is entitled to discontinue play if the player believes that there is a danger from lightning.

If an electrical storm is within range, it is recommended that you seek shelter in the clubhouse. If this is not possible and you are in the open, keep away from tall trees and avoid high ground. Shelter in low-lying areas such as bunkers, ditches and depressions. It is advised that if you are in the open, you should crouch down and if you are in a group, spread out keeping several metres apart.

If play has been suspended by the player as per rule 6-8, the decision on when it is safe to resume rests with the player, unless play has subsequently been suspended by the Club. In circumstances where the Club has suspended play, three long blasts on the klaxon will determine that the electrical storm has passed out of range and it is safe to resume.

It is recommended not to commence play until 30 minutes after the final clap of thunder is heard.

## **General Weather Extremes**

Players must be extremely vigilant during periods of extreme weather, i.e. frost, ice, snow, heavy rain/flash flooding, high winds and the effects of the sun. The Club management inspect the course to determine if it is playable, purely in terms of the potential damage that could be done to the golf course. It would be unreasonable for the management to determine all areas that are potentially dangerous due to weather extremes.

The fact that the course has not been officially closed does not warrant that it is fit to play. All players should consider the potential dangers before commencing play.

Belton Park Golf Club will not accept any liability for its members or visitors who choose to play golf at times of extreme weather as detailed above.

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## **Course staff**

Staff have priority whilst working on the course. If they are working in range of your next shot, you must not play. Wait until the member of staff has moved a safe distance from your target and has indicated that he/she is happy for you to continue.

Golfers should also be aware of the vehicle tracks used by the green staff and give priority when in range.

## **Water hazards**

Under no circumstances may any golfer enter the water hazards on the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> holes or the villa pond between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> hole. They present an obvious danger from drowning and also from contracting diseases.

**Steep banks** – most greens, tees, ponds and bunkers feature banks or slopes to some degree. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> holes have steep banks, quite often in the vicinity of water hazards, detailed above. They must be approached cautiously, particularly in extreme weather conditions.

## **The public**

All golfers should be aware of the public footpath adjacent to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> holes and of the public highway adjacent to the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> holes. Players are requested to inform the General Manager or Professional when they hit a shot towards the public highway.

### **Practise areas**

Golfers should pay particular attention to the practise areas when on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> holes.

Golfers on the practise areas should be aware of the danger of stray balls from the course.

### **Other golfers**

A player must not play until he/she is certain that the group ahead are no longer in range. If an errant shot is made, a clear, early and loud shout of “fore” must be made.

### **21<sup>st</sup> hole**

On completion of the 21<sup>st</sup> hole, golfers must move to a safe position and signal the group behind to play to the 21<sup>st</sup> green before teeing off on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Blind tee shots**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> holes, players must not drive until the bell has been rung by the group in front.

### **Adjacent fairways**

Players should be aware of other golfers on nearby holes.

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Updated 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015